



G  
977.601  
F87c  
1198505

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01053 2734







Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018

<https://archive.org/details/historyoffreebor00curt>



---

Dr. A. C. Wedge

presented to

L W Spicer

---



ALBERT C. WEDGE, M. D.

HISTORY OF  
FREEBORN COUNTY,  
MINNESOTA

COMPILED BY  
FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY  
Martin V. Kellar, Victor Gillrup, Curtis B. Kellar, Henry A. Morgan,  
Albert Clark Wedge, M. D., Thomas Elwood Noble, Emil Nelson,  
Joseph P. Hurley, Mrs. Alice I. Todd, Harold Dahlen, Dor  
K. Stacy, John F. D. Meighen, Vegger Gulbrandson,  
William A. Morin, Lesley S. Whitcomb, Harwood  
G. Day, Clarence Wedge and many others.

ILLUSTRATED

H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.  
CHICAGO, ILL.





1198505

Sender #37.50



*Franklyn Curtiss - Wedge.*

TO THE  
STURDY PIONEERS OF FREEBORN COUNTY  
WHO, AMID INNUMERABLE HARDSHIPS, BLAZED THE WAY  
FOR THE PRESENT GENERATIONS;  
AND TO THEIR  
DESCENDANTS and SUCCESSORS

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED  
BY ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED IN ITS CONSTRUCTION





## FOREWORD

It is with a feeling of considerable pride and pleasure that the publishers present this history for the approval of the people of Freeborn county. The undertaking has not been an easy one and the difficulties have been many, so many indeed that this publication would not have been possible without the liberal assistance of the citizens of the county. The chief contributors and editors have given freely of their time and talent; business men, church officials, fraternity, association and corporation officers, manufacturers, professional men and bankers, often at great personal sacrifice, have laid aside their regular duties to write of their communities and special interests; educators have written of the schools, and men and women in all walks of life have given the information at their command, regarding themselves, their families, their activities and their localities. To all of these the readers of this work owe a lasting debt of gratitude, and to each and every one the publishers extend their heartfelt thanks.

In handling the vast amount of material gathered for this work, it has been the aim of the entire staff to select such matter as is authentic, reliable and interesting. Doubtless facts have been included that many will deem of little moment, but these same facts to others may be of the deepest import. It may be also that some facts have been omitted that many readers would like to see included. To such readers we can only say that to publish every incident in the life of the county would be to issue a work of many volumes, and in choosing such material as would come within the limits of one volume we believe that the matter selected is that which will prove of greatest interest to the greatest number of readers, and also that which is most worthy of being handed down to future generations who in this volume, in far distant years, may read of their large-souled, rugged-bodied ancestors and predecessors, who gave up the settled peace of older communities to brave the rigors of pioneer endeavor.

A few omissions may be due to some of the people of the county, themselves, as in several instances repeated requests for information have met with no response. In such cases information gathered from other sources, while authentic, may be lacking in copious detail.

Before passing hasty judgment on apparent errors, one should consider carefully, not relying on tradition or memory. In many



cases we have found that persons' memories are faulty and tradition erroneous when measured by the standard of official records, even in the case of comparatively recent events, while in many instances families are under the impression that their forebears arrived in the county long before it was possible for them to do so. We have endeavored to follow a uniform system of the spelling of proper names, although various spellings of even the most familiar names appear in the newspapers and records. In Freeborn county this difficulty has been especially great, owing to the fact that surnames are signed with a variety of spelling even by members of the same family.

The publishers of the work are especially indebted to Martin V. Kellar for his able assistance in the preparation of this book. His memory is unusual, and this, with his careful observation of over fifty-five years of Freeborn county's growth, together with his interest in historical matters and his willingness to take part in this enterprise, has made him an invaluable help in the compilation of the present history. Dr. Albert Clark Wedge has also been of help that can scarcely be measured. He has taken a prominent part in the progress of the county since 1857, and his encouragement and assistance has proven an inspiration to all who are connected with this publication.

H. G. Day, with kindness and courtesy, and a desire to see a history of the county issued, placed his priceless files of the Freeborn County Standard and other papers at the disposal of the editors. Without the information contained in these files, the publication of the History of Freeborn County would scarcely have been possible. Especially helpful have been the historical articles which Mr. Day has gathered, compiled and published, during the nearly thirty years that he has been the Dean of Freeborn County Journalism. The files of the Times, the Enterprise, the Times-Enterprise and the Tribune, in charge of the Albert Lea Publishing Co., have also been a most valuable source of information, and the editors of the papers at Alden, Emmons and Glenville have proved more than willing to furnish information from the various issues of their publications. The Souvenir edition of the Hartland Herald was used in preparing the history of that township and village.

Among the works consulted and in many cases copiously copied may be mentioned the History of Freeborn County published in 1882; the Aborigines of Minnesota; the publications of the American Bureau of Ethnology and of the Smithsonian Institute; Minnesota in Three Centuries; the histories of southern Minnesota counties by the editor of the present work; the various publications of the state of Minnesota and the United States government, as well as the publications of the Iowa and Minne-

sota historical societies, and many other biographical, historical and archaeological works of reference. The county, township, city, church and village records have been studiously perused. Hundreds of minute books have been examined and thousands of letters and original manuscripts carefully scanned. To all who have extended us courtesies during our search for these records we extend our thanks.

The biographies have all been gathered with care from those most interested, and with a few exceptions have been revised and corrected by the subject of the biography or by a relative or friend. This, however, refers to the dates, and sequence of events, all personal estimates being the work of the editors, and inserted in biographies only after consultation with other members of the staff.

That this history is faultless we do not presume; it is probably not within the power of man to arrange a work of this kind without mistakes of one sort or another; that it will meet the unqualified approval of all we dare not expect, but we trust that the merits of the history will overbalance any shortcomings that may be discovered.

Our association with the people of Freeborn county has been a most pleasant one. We have conscientiously performed our task, and in placing the history in the hands of those whom it most concerns, our hope is that we have done our work well.

H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.

### NATURAL PHENOMENA.

Introduction—Location and Area—Natural Drainage—Surface Features—Soil and Timber—Trees and Shrubs—The Geological Structure—Natural Resources—The Coal Fiasco—Natural Gas—The Hunter's Paradise—Mastodon Remains.....	1
--	---

## CHAPTER II.

### THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

Primeval Solitude—The Coming of Man—Occupancy by the Mound Builders—The Hunting Grounds of the Sioux—The Sacs and Foxes Also Here—Winnebagos Arrive.....	10
--	----

## CHAPTER III.

### INDIAN TREATIES.

Visit to Washington—Boundray Lines Between Indian Tribes Defined—Territory Now Freeborn County Included in the Sioux Jurisdiction—Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien—Some of Wabasha's Men Killed by Foxes in Iowa—Strip of Territory South of Freeborn County Ceded by Treaty—The Doty Treaty and Its Failure—Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux—Treaty of Mendota, by Which Freeborn County Was Opened to Settlement.....	13
--	----

## CHAPTER IV.

### GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY.

Early Claims of Title—Spain, France and England—Treaties and Agreements—The Louisiana Purchase—Indiana—Louisiana District—Louisiana Territory—Missouri Territory—North-west Territory—Illinois Territory—Michigan Territory—Wisconsin Territory—Iowa Territory—No Man's Land—Sibley in Congress—Minnesota Territory—Minnesota State.....	20
--	----

## CHAPTER V.

## EARLY EXPLORATIONS.

- No Evidence that Earliest Minnesota Explorers Reached Freeborn County—Visit of the United States Dragoons in 1835—Albert Miller Lea, the Topographer of the Expedition—Lea's Own Story—His Later Visit to Freeborn County—Early Hunting Expeditions—Great Amount of Game Secured in This Vicinity—Sibley and Rice—Early Surveys..... 39

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE FIRST SETTLERS.

- Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen Arrives and Settles in Shell Rock Township—Other Pioneers of 1855—Geneva Lake and Valley of the Turtle—Lake Albert Lea—Valley of the Shell Rock—Freeborn Lake—Albert Lea Started—Influx of Settlement Begins—Copies from the Land Office Records..... 49

## CHAPTER VII.

## PIONEER TIMES.

- Early Settlement—First Village in the County—Blue Earth Road—The Pioneer Home—Pioneer Women—First Religious Meetings—First Events—By Martin V. Kellar..... 58

## CHAPTER VIII.

## EARLY DAYS.

- Course of the Early Pioneers—First Settlement—Difficulty of Transportation—Story of the County Seat Wars as Told by One of the Principal Participants in the Contests—Appointment of County Commissioners—Albert Lea Selected as the Temporary Seat of Government—Albert Lea, St. Nicholas, Shell Rock City, Itasca, Fairfield and Bancroft Enter the Fight—Albert Lea Wins First Contest—Itasca Again Enters the Arena—Settlers About to Lose Their Claims—Albert Lea Citizens Ascertain Methods of Protecting the Claimants—Victory Again Comes to Albert Lea—Matter Settled Permanently—By Dr. A. C. Wedge..... 66

## CHAPTER IX.

## ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARY LINES.

- Freeborn Included in the Original Limits of Wabash County—Made a Part of Dakota County in 1851—Divided Between

Rice and Blue Earth Counties—Freeborn County Created in 1855—Organized in 1857—Old Precincts—Township Names and Changes in Affiliation and Boundaries.....	76
--	----

## CHAPTER X.

### COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

Freeborn County in Seventh, Sixth and Fourth Council Districts—Constitution Convention—Freeborn and Faribault Counties Become the Fourteenth Senatorial District—Freeborn, Steele and Waseca Become the Sixteenth District—Freeborn County Becomes the Fifth District—Changed to the Fourth and Then to Ninth—Congressional Representative.....	88
---	----

## CHAPTER XI.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

First Board of County Commissioners Organizes—The Supervisor System—Doings of the Early Boards—Complete List of Elective County Officers—County Seat Contest—Court House, Jail and Poor Farm—County Ditches—Edited by Victor Gillrup .....	96
--	----

## CHAPTER XII.

### PIONEER SOCIETIES.

Associations Which Have Been Formed to Perpetuate the Memories of the Early Days—Interesting Meetings Held—Freeborn County Old Settlers' Association, 1875 to 1882—Freeborn County Territorial Pioneers' Association, 1889 to 1911.....	112
---	-----

## CHAPTER XIII.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

Story of the Financial Institutions of the County—Location, Organization, Officers and Standing—Written by C. B. Kellar.	118
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIV.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS.

State and County School System—First Schools and First Districts in Freeborn County—State Aid—Equipment—Literary Societies—Meetings for Officers, Teachers and Pupils—Exhibits and Contests—Institutes and Summer Schools—Parochial Schools—Story of the Districts—Prepared with the Assistance of Professor Harold Dahlen .....	127
--	-----



## CHAPTER XV.

## COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

Summary of Lines in Freeborn County—Land Grant Roads— Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad—Southern Minnesota Railroad—Southern Minnesota Railway—Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway—Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad— Albert Lea & Fort Dodge Line—Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern—Germania Branch—Iowa Central—Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific—Illinois Central—Albert Lea & Southern Railroad—Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad—The Alphabet Line—Railroad Bonds . . . . .	163
--	-----

## CHAPTER XVI.

## CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS.

Interesting Happenings in the Life of the County from 1859 to 1882—Political Incidents, Celebrations, Fires, Deaths, and Other Items Which Recall Days Long Since Past . . . . .	171
--	-----

## CHAPTER XVII.

## AGRICULTURE.

Advantages of Freeborn County as an Agricultural Region— Farming in the Early Days—Wheat as the Principal Crop— Gradual Decrease in the Raising of That Cereal—How the Settlers Obtained Their Land—Pests—Introduction of Dairy- ing—Modern Implements and Improvements—Illumination— Registered Farms—Calamities—Agricultural Society . . . . .	192
---	-----

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

Importance of the Medical Profession—The Pioneer Doctors— History of Medicine in This County Begins with Dr. A. C. Wedge—Medical Associations—The Albert Lea District Med- ical Association—The Freeborn County Medical Society . . . . .	203
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIX.

## MILITARY HISTORY.

Freeborn County at the Outbreak of the Civil War—Raising of First Company—Other Companies Raised in This County— Roll of Honor—Names of Freeborn County Veterans—Battle- Scarred Relic—Siege of Ft. Ridgley—Reminiscences of the War—Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R.—State Militia Companies —Albert Lea Light Guards—Company I, First Regiment, M. N. G.—The Spanish-American War . . . . .	209
---	-----

CHAPTER XX.

POSTAL HISTORY.

Beginning of Postal Service—First Postoffice in Freeborn County—St. Nicholas, Lake Albert Lea, Geneva—Old Stage Routes—Rural Routes—Development of the System—Present Offices—Albert Lea, Alden, Armstrong, Clarks Grove, Conger, Emmons, Freeborn, Geneva, Glenville, Gordonsville, Hartland, Hayward, London, Manchester, Myrtle, Oakland, Twin Lakes—Former Offices—Edited by Emil Nelson.....	227
---	-----

CHAPTER XXI.

FREEBORN COUNTY HORTICULTURE.

Native Fruits, Berries and Trees—Some of the Pioneer Horticulturists—Their Long Life and Exemplary Habits—Horticultural Societies—By Clarence Wedge .....	237
---	-----

CHAPTER XXII.

EARLY ALBERT LEA.

Picturesque Location—Ruble and Merry Arrive in 1855—Colby and Lilly Settle in the Township—Merry Sells to Thorne and Wedge—Settlers of 1856—Principal Arrivals of 1857—Platting the Village—Early Business Interests—Albert Lea in 1858—Hotels .....	246
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIII.

MUNICIPAL ALBERT LEA.

Village Powers Delegated to the Supervisors—Conflict Over Incorporation—Bill Passes Legislature—Accepted by People of Albert Lea—Officers from Year to Year—Story of the City Charter—Edited by Victor Gillrup.....	263
---	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

MODERN ALBERT LEA.

Advantages of Albert Lea as a Place of Residence—Parks—Street Paving—Street Lighting—Water Works—Sewers—Telephones—Fire Department—City Hall and Engine House—Carnegie Library—City and County Hospital—Business Men's League—Cemeteries—Written by Joseph P. Hurley.....	274
---	-----



## CHAPTER XXV.

## ALBERT LEA INTERESTS.

- American Gas Machine Company—Albert Lea Gas Light Company—Albert Lea Hide and Fur Company—Albert Lea Packing Company — Corset Companies — Wedge Nursery — Lake Shore Greenhouses—Albert Lea Mills—G. A. Olson Manufacturing Company—American Culvert Company—Other Companies—Loan Associations—Modern Business Houses . . . . . 289

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## ALBERT LEA CHURCHES.

- Early Settlers Were Devout Men—First Religious Services—Story of the Various Religious Bodies — Original Organization — Early Pastors—Later-Day Pastors—Dates the Buildings Were Erected—Various Activities Connected with the Churches—Former Churches . . . . . 304

## CHAPTER XXVII.

## ALBERT LEA FRATERNITIES.

- Many Beautiful Lodge Halls in the City—Masonic Orders—Odd Fellows — Knights of Pythias — Elks—Eagles—Owls—Commercial Travelers — Fraternal Insurance Orders — Patriotic Orders—Scandinavian Lodges—By John F. D. Meighen . . . . . 321

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE.

- Club of Albert Lea—Sociability and Mutual Help the Keynote —Church Organizations — Woman's Christian Temperance Union—City Relief Society—Women's Relief Corps—Travel Class — Beethoven Club — Study Club — Albert Lea Science Association—Fortnightly Club—By Mrs. Alice I. Todd . . . . . 346

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## FREEBORN COUNTY VILLAGES.

- Story of the Prosperous Trading Centers — Alden, Clarks Grove, Emmons, Freeborn, Glenville, Geneva, Gordonsville, Hartland, London, Manchester—Other Villages—Bancroft and Itasca—Three Former Villages . . . . . 353

CHAPTER XXX.

FREEBORN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS.

Location — Natural Features — First Settlement — Stories of the Pioneer Days — Town Organizations — Interesting Events—  
 Albert Lea — Alden — Bath—Carlston—Freeborn—Freeman  
 — Geneva — Hartland — Hayward — London — Manchester  
 — Mansfield — Moscow — Nunda — Newry — Oakland —  
 Pickerel Lake—Riceland—Shell Rock..... 378

CHAPTER XXXI.

FREEBORN COUNTY CHURCHES.

Pioneers in Faith Who First Held Services in This County—  
 Story of the Leading Churches of the Townships and Villages  
 —Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod—United Lutheran  
 —Danish Lutheran—German Lutheran—Swedish Lutheran—  
 Danish Baptist—Methodist Episcopal—German Methodist—  
 Free Methodist—United Brethren—Presbyterian—Congrega-  
 tional—Roman Catholic—Adventists—Early Services ..... 432

CHAPTER XXXII.

DAIRY INTERESTS.

What the Dairy Industry Has Meant to Freeborn County—Million  
 Dollars a Year Received by the Farmers for Milk and Cream—  
 Farmers of Clarke's Grove the Pioneers in the Movement—  
 Farmers of Clarke's Grove the Pioneers in the Movement—  
 Story of the Creameries Throughout the County—Edited by  
 Thomas Elwood Noble..... 454

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE NEWSPAPERS.

Importance of the Newspaper—One Daily and Five Weeklies in  
 Freeborn County—Historic Freeborn County Standard and Its  
 Eventful Career—Times-Enterprise—Albert Lea Daily Trib-  
 une — Alden Advertiser — Glenville Progress — The Emmons  
 Leader — Papers of Other Days — Edited by Lesley S.  
 Whitcomb ..... 480

CHAPTER XXXIV.

ANECDOTES AND INCIDENTS.

Celebrations — Blizzard of 1873 — Two Famous Horse Races —  
 Some Early Deaths—Some Excellent Men—The Neutral Strip  
 —Freeborn County Archæology—Reminiscences of Thomas R.  
 Morgan—Reminiscences of D. W. Horning..... 491



## CHAPTER XXXV.

## BENCH AND BAR.

Henry Morgan Writes of Those Who Have Constituted the Courts and Legal Profession of Freeborn County—Judges Who Have Administered Equity and Justice in This County—Members of the Bar—Legal and Judicial Minds Whose Eloquence Have Been at the Disposal of Freeborn County Litigants—Other Matters—Drainage of Riceland Marsh .....	504
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

## BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW.

Sketches of the Leading Men of the County—Lives of Those Who Have Helped to Make the County What It Is today—Incidents in the Lives of the Early Settlers—Tales of Success and Achievement .....	521
---	-----

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

## APPENDIX.

Supplementary Notes on the Bench and Bar, by Henry A. Morgan —The Kreigler, Carbury and Wing Homicide Cases—George S. Ruble's Claim to Court Square — Other Matters — The Trondhjem, Moscow, Oakland and Hayward Congregations..	859
---	-----

## CHAPTER I.

### NATURAL PHENOMENA.

**Introduction—Location and Area—Natural Drainage—Surface Features—Soil and Timber—Trees and Shrubs—The Geological Structure—Natural Resources—The Coal Fiasco—Natural Gas—The Hunter's Paradise—Mastodon Remains.**

Situated a little to the east of the south-central part of that beautiful sweep of rolling prairie known as southern Minnesota, lies a favored county which has taken its name from William Freeborn, an early pioneer, and a member of the council in several sessions of the Minnesota territorial legislature.

A rolling prairie, interspersed with natural and domestic groves, dotted with lakes, beautified by meandering streams, and surfaced with rich, deep soil, the county has advantages which have placed it in the foremost ranks of Minnesota's agricultural and grazing districts. The elevation of this stretch of land above the sea, its fine drainage and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. Its latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer, and during the growing seasons about one and a half hours more of sunshine than in the latitude of St. Louis. The refreshing breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effect of heat so often felt in lower latitudes. The winter climate is also one of the attractive features. Its uniformity and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and the electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and to make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

Embracing, as the county does, so pleasing a prospect to the eye, and so fruitful a field for successful endeavor, it is natural that the people who from the earliest days were attracted here should be the possessors of steady virtues, ready to toil and to sacrifice, that their labors might be crowned with the fruits of prosperity and happiness. The cities and villages of the county have had their part in the general commercial upbuilding of the state, and furnish excellent trading and shipping facilities for the rural districts. In these centers, manufacturing is carried on to a greater or less extent, and the dairy and creamery interests are paramount.

The rural districts are the scene of peace, prosperity and



contentment. The homes are substantially built, and furnished with the comforts and conveniences of modern life, stock is humanely housed and well pastured, the farm land is extensively tiled and productive, and the churches and schools which are seen on every side testify to an interest in the higher things of life by a law-abiding, progressive and loyal people.

It is indeed in its men and women, rather than in its grains and vegetables, its live stock and fruit, its factories and commerce, that Freeborn county takes its greatest pride. From her farms, from her villages and from her cities have gone forth those who have taken an important part in the activities of the world, and who, whether in commerce or diplomacy, in the professions or in the trades, have maintained that steadfastness of purpose and staunchness of character that mark true Freeborn county men and women wherever they may be found.

Usually blessed by nature with deep soil and abundant natural resources, and endowed with a wealth of prehistoric and historic lore, the county is a fitting home for the sturdy people who have here made their dwelling place. Hard-working, progressive, educated and prosperous, they have appreciated the gifts which nature has spread for them, and have added their own toil, and the fruit of their intellects, to the work of the elements, making the country one of the beautiful spots of the earth. On the slopes of land graze cattle and sheep, while the level lands respond to the efforts of the springtime sower and planter with a wealth of harvest in the summer and autumn. On nearly every quarter section is reared a comfortable home and commodious barns, while from the crest of every swell of land are visible the churches and schools wherein the people worship the Giver of all Gifts, and educate their children. Thus blessed by God and beloved by man, the county today stands for all that is ideal in American life and is forging ahead to still wider influence and more extended opportunity.

**Location and Area.** Freeborn county borders on the state of Iowa, and is very near the center of the southern boundary line of Minnesota. It has the form of a rectangle, having a length, east and west, of five government towns, and north and south, a width of four, making an area of 720 square miles, or 449,235.63 acres, after deducting the areas covered by water. Freeborn is on the southern tier of Minnesota counties, the fourth from the Mississippi, and next to Mower county; on the south it has Winnebago and Worth counties in Iowa; on the west it is the sixth from the Dakota line, and next to Faribault; and Steele and Waseca are the northern neighbors.

There are thirty or more lakes in its territory, the most prominent among which are Lake Albert Lea, Geneva lake, Freeborn



lake, Twin lakes, and Pickerel lake. It is well watered, being really on a divide, with waters flowing north and south. Among the more noted streams are the Shell Rock river, Cobb river, Goose creek, Turtle creek, Deer creek, Bancroft creek, Stewart's creek, and State Line creek, with several others. These, with the lakes and other topographical features, receive special mention in the town histories. The twenty townships all coincide with the government survey, and have corresponding political organizations, named as follows: Freeborn, Carlston, Alden, Mansfield, Hartland, Manchester, Pickerel Lake, Nunda, Bath, Bancroft, Albert Lea, Freeman, Geneva, Riceland, Hayward, Shell Rock, Newry, Moscow, Oakland and London.

**Natural Drainage.** With the exception of Freeborn, Hartland and Carlston townships, the surface drainage is towards the south and southeast. The county embraces the headwaters of the Shell Rock and Cedar rivers of Iowa, and those of the Cobb river, which joins the Minnesota toward the north. Hence it lies on the watershed between two great drainage slopes. For the same reason none of its streams are large, the Shell Rock, where it leaves the state, being its largest. The streams have not much fall, but afford some water-power, which in the early days was improved to some extent for milling purposes.

**Surface Features.** The surface of the county, although having no remarkable and sudden changes of level, yet is considerably diversified as a rolling prairie, more or less covered with sparse oaks and oak bushes. This topic is more thoroughly discussed in the history of the various townships found in this volume. North and west of Albert Lea is a very broken and rolling surface of sparse timber. This tract consists of bold hills and deep valleys wrought in the common drift of the country. On some of these hills are granitic boulders, but the country generally does not show many boulders. The drift is generally, in this broken tract, a gravel-clay. In some of the street-cuts for grading, a gravel is found containing some limestone. A great many of the marshes of the county are surrounded with tracts of oak openings, a fact which indicates that the marshes serve as barriers to the prairie fires. Since the coming of the white men, trees have been planted, and groves in plenty now dot the landscape.

**Soil and Timber.** Throughout the county the soil depends on the nature of the drift, combined with the various modifying local circumstances. There is nothing in the county that can properly be designated a limestone or a sandstone soil. The materials of which it is composed have been transported, perhaps, several hundred miles, and are so abundantly and universally spread over the underlying rock that they receive no influ-



ence from it. The subsoil is a gravelly clay, and in much of the county that also constitutes the surface soil. In low ground this, of course, is disguised by a wash from the higher ground, causing sometimes a loam and sometimes a tough fine clay; the latter is particularly in those tracts that are subject to inundation by standing water. On an undulating prairie, with a close clay, or clayey subsoil, such low spots are apt to have a black rich loam or clayey loam, the color being derived from the annual prairie fires that left charred grass and other vegetation to mingle with the soil. The same takes place on wide tracts of flat prairie. In this soil may be boulders of various kinds—indeed, that is usually the case—but below the immediate surface, a foot or eighteen inches, a gravelly clay is always met with. This at first doubtless formed the soil, the disintegrating forces of frost, rain and wind, combined with the calcining effects of the prairie fires, having reduced the stones and gravel to powder, leaving a finely pulverized substance for a surface soil.

In a rolling tract of country, while the low ground is being filled slowly with the wash from the hills, and furnished with a fine soil the hills are left covered with a coarse and stony surface soil. For that reason a great many boulders are sometimes seen on the tops of drift knolls. Along the streams and about the shores of lakes, the action of the water has carried away the clay of the soil and often eaten into the original drift, letting the stones and boulders tumble down to the bottom of the bank, where they are often very numerous. Along streams they are sometimes again covered with alluvium—indeed, are apt to be—but along the shores of lakes they are kept near the beach line by the action of the winter ice. These lakes sometimes extend their limits laterally, but slowly become shallower. Even in the short period that white men have lived in this county, the lakes have gradually filled up, and buildings have been reared, and crops planted on land which was under water fifty years ago. Old settlers predict that within a hundred years practically every lake in the county, except the very deepest, will be filled with the inwash of soil and dried up. When the white men came the lakes of the county were sightly and picturesque, with a clean shore line, but their beauty is now marred by marshy edges, undefined in outline, and abounding in reeds, rushes and swamp vegetation.

**Trees and Shrubs.** In the survey of the county the following species of trees and shrubs are noticed growing native: Burr Oak. *Quercus macrocarpa*. Michx. Red Oak. *Quercus rubra*. L. (This species is not satisfactorily identified.) Aspen. *Populus tremuloides*. Michx. Elm. *Ulmus Americana*. (Pl. Clayt.) Wild. Black Cherry. *Prunus serotina*. Ehr. American Crab. *Pyrus cor-*



onaria. L. Bitternut. *Carya amara*. Mutt. Black Walnut. *Juglans nigra*. L. Wild Plum. *Prunus Americana*. Marsh. White Ash. *Fraxinus Americana*. L. Butternut. *Juglans cinerea*. L. Hazelnut. *Corylus Americana*. Walt. Forest Grape. *Vitis cordifolia*. Michx. Bittersweet. *Celastrus scandens*. L. Smooth Sumac. *Rhus glabra*. L. Red Raspberry. *Rubus strigosus*. Michx. Rose. *Aosa blanda*. Ait. Wolfberry. *Symphoricarpus occidentalis*. R. Br. Bass. *Tilia Americana*. L. Prickly Ash. *Zanthoxylum Americanum*. Mill. Cornel. (Different species.) Willow (Different species.) Gooseberry (prickly). *Ribes cynosbati*. L. Thorn. *Crataegus coccinea*. L. Hackberry. *Celtis Occidentalis*. L. Sugar Maple. *Acer saccharinum*. Wang. Cottonwood. *Populus monilifera*. Ait. Soft Maple. *Acer rubrum*. L. Cockspur Thorn. *Crataegus Crus-galli*. L. Slippery Elm. *Ulmus fulva*. Michx. Black Ash. *Fraxinus sambucifolia*. Lam. High-bush Cranberry. *Viburnum Opuvus*. L. Choke Cherry. *Prunus Virginiana*. L. Shagbark Hickory. *Carya alba*. Nutt. (Rare.) Besides the foregoing, the following list embraces trees that are frequently seen in cultivation in Freeborn county: Spruce, Red Cedar. *Juniperus Virginiana*. L. Mountain Ash. *Pyrus Americana*. D. C. Balsam Poplar. *Populus balsamifera*. L. Var. *candicans*. Lombardy Poplar. *Dilatata*. Ait. Locust. *Robinia Pseudacacia*. L. (The Locust dies out in Freeborn county.) Hackmatack. *Larix Americana*. Michx. Arbor Vitae. *Thuja occidentalis*.

**The Geological Structure.** The geological structure of the county is fully treated in the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota by N. H. Winchell and Warren Upham, published by the state of Minnesota. The article has so many times been published that it will not be reproduced here. The student will find useful material for study in the scholarly work just mentioned.

**Natural Resources.** Freeborn county is pre-eminently a farming and grazing county, and its principal resources consist of its advantages from these standpoints. Good water is found throughout the county at a depth of from forty to 160 feet, and every farm is supplied with its well. In the earliest days, temporary wells were dug and water was reached at a depth of from six to fifteen feet. The water found has been almost uniformly good, although in some instances the purity of the wells was marred by the presence of vegetable matter, a condition which has practically passed away. There are a few artesian wells, this being the source of the Albert Lea water supply. The lakes and streams are but little used for watering stock and not at all for household purposes. No efforts have been made at quarrying. No lime is burned in the county, although at one time some lime was obtained by burning boulders which were found loose about

the lakes. These boulders were round, and whitish in appearance, thus differing from the usual quarried limestone, which is grayish in color. Brick was burned as early as 1857. The first yard was located on Glenville road, about half a mile southeast from the present Luther Academy, and was in charge of G. W. Watrous. Since then the output of brick has been considerable in this county. Of late years tile has been made on a somewhat extensive scale, there being plants at Albert Lea and Glenville. No effort has been made to utilize the peat with which the county abounds. Sand in small quantities is used for building purposes.

Water-power has been utilized in but two places—at Albert Lea and at Twin Lakes. For many years no water-power at all has been used in the county.

**The Coal Fiasco.** In November, 1879, E. B. Clark commenced prospecting for coal, and employed F. D. Drake to put down a four-inch mining pipe. Mr. Drake had been prospecting more or less at Freeborn for five years. At one time, in connection with L. T. Scott and E. D. Rogers, he had partially organized a coal company and taken leases of several hundred acres of land in that vicinity for coal purposes. This company bored in several places as far down as the second vein of water, about 100 feet, where they struck quicksand, but no coal. A man named A. Short, from La Crosse, Wisconsin, came to Freeborn and leased about 2,000 acres of land for prospecting purposes, worked a short time to make his leases hold good, and left. This was in 1875. After it became evident that he would do no more towards developing what coal or other substances might be there, E. B. Clark bought his interest in the leases, and in the fall of 1879, together with E. G. Perkins and W. W. Cargill, of La Crosse, commenced prospecting, and hired Mr. Drake to put down the pipe. He not having had any experience in sinking such wells did not start the bore plumb, and after expending a large amount of labor, first by Drake and then by P. Morse, of Wells, and George Cross, of Freeborn, the work in that well had to be abandoned in consequence of trouble in the fall of 1880. In April, 1881, E. B. Clark, together with E. G. Perkins and W. W. Cargill, organized the Freeborn Consolidated Coal and Mining Company, and in July following held its first meeting for election of officers. Small pieces of shale, having much the appearance of coal, were found in different locations, but never in sufficient quantities for mining, and the anticipation of fortunes out of coal were not realized. The Geological and Natural History Survey, mentioned above, contains much interesting information regarding the existence of coal in Freeborn county.

**Natural Gas.** There is no doubt of the existence of natural gas in considerable quantities in this county, especially in Free-



born township. Prof. N. H. Winchell, the state geologist, who made a thorough examination of the matter, has declared the presence of gas under the official sanction of his office, and the gentlemen who in the eighties spent considerable sums of money in prospecting still have the same faith which originally animated their investments. As early as 1860, the well at the Webber house, Albert Lea, giving forth boiling sounds, caved in, evidently the result of gaseous activities. In 1887 a well which was being dug on the farm of L. T. Scott, in Freeborn township, gave evidence of gas, and a prospecting well which was bored produced gas in such quantities that it was piped into the house and used for illuminating purposes. Gas was also found on the farm of W. Jackman, E. D. Rodgers, F. D. Drake and many others in Freeborn township. A company, consisting largely of Albert Lea gentlemen, was formed, a well was bored, options were secured, and some \$15,000 spent. It was found, however, that a much larger outlay was necessary, and as the stockholders had expended all they cared to invest, operations were stopped, and the options lapsed. Members of the company who are living, however, are still firmly of the opinion that a fortune awaits any company that has sufficient capital to finance the proposition to a successful conclusion.

The Minnesota Natural Gas, Oil and Fuel Company, with headquarters at Albert Lea, was incorporated August 23, 1887, and started business two days later. The original incorporators, as recorded at the court house, were William P. Sergeant, Robert M. Todd, Edward S. Prentice, Darius F. Morgan (president), John P. Hoveland, Charles C. Dwight, William C. McAdam (secretary), James H. Parker and Thorvold V. Knatvold. The original capital stock was \$1,500,000, but this was reduced to \$150,000, the limit of liability and indebtedness being \$5,000. Although the gentlemen named above were the incorporators, the real company consisted of R. M. Todd, L. T. Scott, D. F. Morgan, T. V. Knatvold, H. P. Hall (St. Paul), H. G. Day, W. C. McAdam, J. P. Hoveland, C. C. Dwight and E. S. Prentice.

While the activities of this company were limited practically to Freeborn township, gas has also been found elsewhere in the county. May 29, 1887, while Anderson & Olson were boring a tubular well for Ole C. Olson, on section 30, in Riceland township, about six miles in a direct line northeast of Albert Lea, at a depth of sixty-three feet they encountered a powerful vein of natural gas. The force was so great that gravel and sand were thrown fifty feet or more into the air, and the roar of the escaping gas could be heard for a long distance. The well being near Mr. Olson's barn, a reducer was put on the two-inch casting in the well and the gas was carried in an inch-an-a-half pipe about 100



feet to a safe distance. At the present time there are places in the county where even the most superficial borings result in a flow of gas which, when ignited, forms a column of flame many feet high.

**Mastodon Remains.** A vertebra of a prehistoric mastodon which roamed the plains of Minnesota 200,000 years ago, before the glaciers sweeping down from the north had devastated the feeding grounds of its kind, was exhumed in May, 1911, at Albert Lea, by workmen excavating for a cellar, and was presented to the department of zoölogy at the state university and installed in the museum. Discovered in a state where little research work in prehistoric life has been done, it is considered by university specialists as a most valuable contribution to worldwide science. The vertebra discovered at Albert Lea was found twelve feet below the surface of the ground, in the glacial drift, at 237 East Clark street. It is called the atlas bone, a vertebra located at the neck, and is of enormous size measuring two feet across from shoulder to shoulder. From the top of the neck down it is fully a foot deep. The bone is carefully preserved in every detail, there being no sign of crumbling or decay. Though the excavation at Albert Lea was prolonged in the hope of finding other parts of the skeleton, none was discovered. The absence of other bones, however, is easily explained by experts in paleontology at the university. Members of the department say that carnivorous beasts of that period that preyed upon the mastodon may have detached the bone from the skeleton and carried it to the spot where it was found, either to eat the meat from it or play with it as the modern coyote, tiger or cat frequently plays with its prey, or separating itself from the carcass as it decomposed it may have rolled down a prehistoric hillside no longer existing, or have been carried there by the glaciers. The mastodon, called by science the mastodon Americanus, from which the bone was taken, lived 200,000 years ago in the pleistocene period, according to Prof. Henry F. Nachtrieb. The figures are obtained by careful investigation of the depth at which it was found, the character of the drift in which it lay, and from what is known of the animal from numerous other discoveries in the east and west, for it is a distinct American species. The mastodon became extinct in the period following the pleistocene era.

Several buffalo heads have also been found at a considerable depth in Freeborn county.

### THE HUNTER'S PARADISE.

Doubtless no portion of the great west could boast, on its first settlement, of a more beautiful park of lakes than Freeborn



county. The pioneer sees great changes in them, for today many have become very unsightly. As soon as farming operations began the soil of the fields washed into them and they have become two-thirds filled with mud during the past fifty years.

In early days those lakes teemed with all kinds of waterfowl that were bagged by the sportsman in large numbers, many coming from the eastern states during the autumn season on vacations especially to hunt. This was the nesting place of almost every known species of web-footed fowl, and as the Indian by his tribal law never molests the nest of any game bird, they were raised in large numbers.

On Pickerel Lake island, of not over three acres in extent, in May, 1856, forty-two goose nests were counted, all nearly ready for hatching. The next spring equally as many were found, but the white man began his robbery, and a very few years later they ceased to claim this as their home. Today scarcely a goose or duck is seen, as the white man's sport has taught them to follow the Indian, as he is far less cruel, for when he shoots he takes no chances—he kills, not wounds.

Prairie chickens were found in great numbers and were so destructive to grain that many farmers destroyed every nest to be found. It was nothing uncommon for the sportsman to bag from three to five dozen a day. They came into the fields in large flocks, and when suddenly frightened their many wings sounded like distant thunder. Today, however, they have become virtually extinct.

For ten years after the first settlement our lakes fairly teemed with many kinds of fish, such as pickerel, sucker, muscalonge, bass, and many smaller varieties but little used by the settler. There was no market for them, but all had what they could consume for family use. One night in 1860 they were so plentiful at Albert Lea they crowded into the turbine wheel of Ruble's mill and put the mill out of commission until morning. Hundreds were ground to death and the wasteway was virtually a river of blood. In January, 1866, J. B. Clifton, with the aid of two men at the townsite of old St. Nicholas, with pitchfork and sticks, threw onto the banks of a small spring run three wagonloads of pickerel in two hours. Many salted them down and they proved to be an excellent quality of food.

As the mill dams on the Shell Rock and Cedar rivers were built, stopping their ascent, our fish disappeared and are known in the county today only as a luxury. Scarcely any are to be found.—By M. V. Kellar.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

**Primeval Solitude — The Coming of Man — Occupancy by the Mound Builders—The Hunting Grounds of the Sioux—The Sacs and Foxes Also Here—Winnebagos Arrive.**

From the first existence of the earth to the time of the coming of man many æons passed, and after countless ages this locality awaited human habitation. Primeval nature reigned in all her beauty.

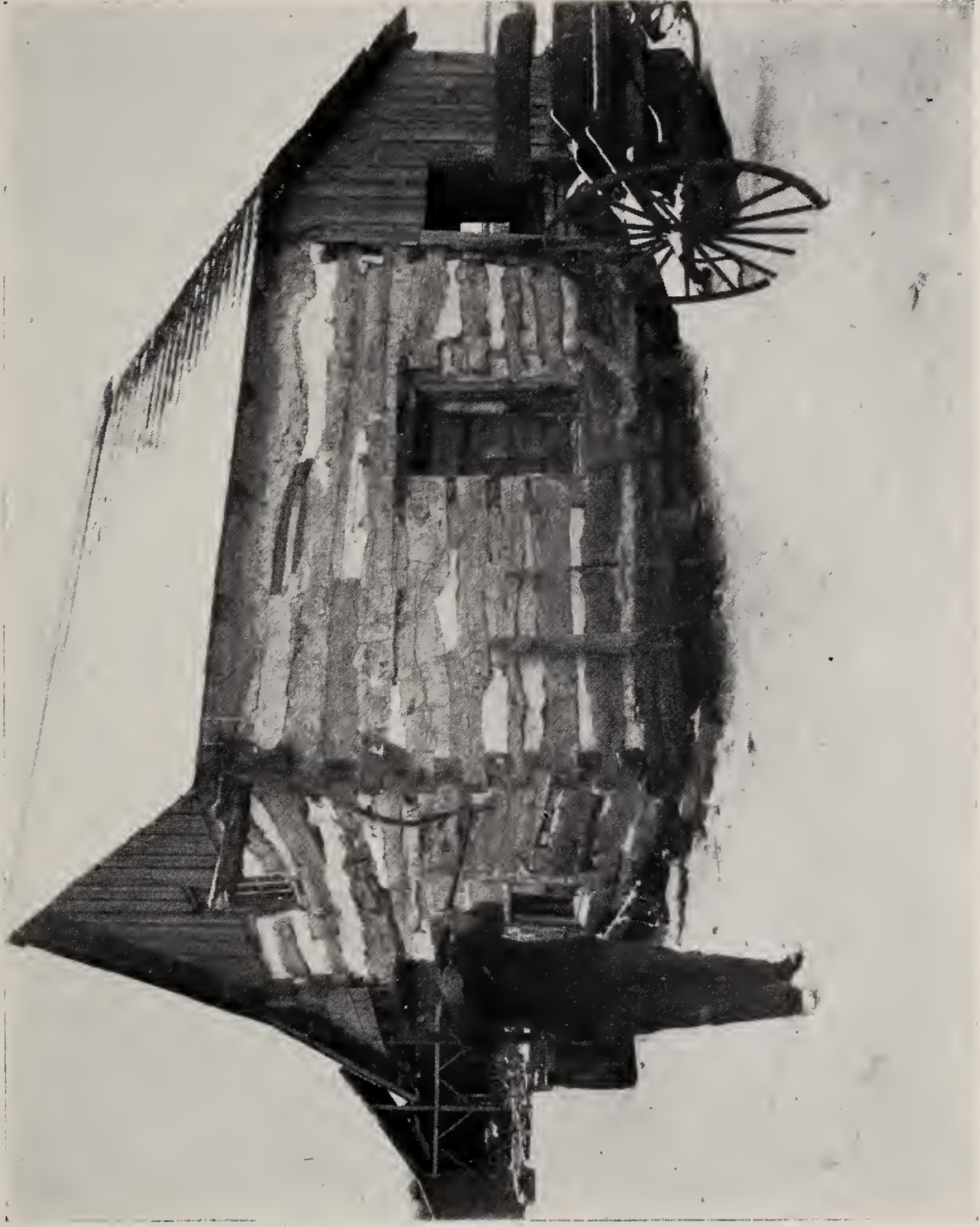
“The buffalo, the elk, and the deer for centuries roamed the wild prairies and woodlands; fishes basked undisturbed in its rippling streams; the muskrat, the otter, and the mink gamboled upon the ice in winter with no man to molest them. Ducks, geese, and other aquatic fowls, in countless numbers, covered the streams in summer, and chattered and squawked and frolicked in all their native glory and happiness. The prairie wolves howled upon their little hillocks, and, cowardlike, were always ready to attack and destroy the weak and defenseless. Pocket gophers went on with their interminable underground operations, all unconscious of the inroads later to be made upon their dominions by the husbandman. Grouse and prairie chickens cackled, crowed and strutted in all their pride. Blizzards and cyclones swept unheeded across its domains.

“The autumnal prairie fires, in all their terrible grandeur and weird beauty, lighted the heavens by night and clouded the sun by day. Age after age added richness to the soil and prepared it to be one of the most productive fields of the world for the abode of the husbandman and for the uses of civilized man.”

At some period of the earth's history, mankind in some form took up its abode in the area that is now Freeborn county. The origin of human life in Minnesota has been made a subject of special study by Dr. Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, and the thoughtful student is referred to his various articles on the subject, a detailed discussion being beyond the scope of this work.

The original inhabitants of Freeborn county were doubtless the Mound Builders. Evidences of the occupancy of this race are found in several places within the present limits of the county, and several residents have excellent collections of arrow-





ANCIENT LANDMARK





heads, implements, and the like. A large mound some forty feet across, but only twelve or fifteen inches high, was found by the early settlers in about the middle of what is now Broadway, between William and Main streets, Albert Lea. On this mound on July 4, 1856, the first public flag raising in Freeborn county was held. In 1909 two skulls were unearthed in about the same locality, and those who examined them declare that they were not those of modern Indians. Other mounds and other relics have been found in various places in the county at various times.

No scientific investigation, however, has been made of mounds in Freeborn county, but studies that have been made of these mounds to the north and east, inside of a radius of 100 miles, would seemingly form the premises of a fairly safe conclusion, that the mound-building race ranged the prairies of Freeborn county. Scholars at one time held to the belief that the Mound Builders were a distinct race of a now exterminated people, much superior to the Indians in intelligence and habits and related closely, indeed, in civilization to the highly cultured Aztecs of Mexico. Present-day scholars, however, are of the belief that the Mound Builders of North America were the ancestors of the Indians found here by the early explorers, and differing from them in no important characteristic of intelligence, habits, morals or education. The Mound Builders of this immediate vicinity were, doubtless, the ancestors of the Sioux and the Iowa Indians, it being well known that these two races were branches of the same great family.

None of the early explorers mention any permanent Indian villages within the present limits of Freeborn county, and, although the Sioux Indians claimed this stretch of land, this prairie was doubtless crossed from time immemorial by bands of the Sioux, Iowas, Sacs (Sauks) and Foxes.

The vague traditions of the Sioux having been driven out of Wisconsin by the Chippewas, their settlement about Mille Lacs, and their gradual distribution along the west banks of the upper Mississippi, as well as their alleged conquest of the Iowas, who, according to tradition, formerly occupied the latter locality, is beyond the scope of this work. The words Dakota and Sioux, though exactly opposite in meaning, are applied to the same race of Indians. Dakota (variously spelled) is the name applied by the race themselves, and means friendly or joined together in friendly compact, the Sioux nation being a confederation of tribes. The word Sioux comes from the word Nadowayscioux, applied by the Chippewas, and meaning enemies. The diaries of the early hunters along the west bank of the Mississippi lead us to believe that the vicinity embraced in Freeborn county was familiar to all the Sioux Indians living along that river, as well

as to those whose headquarters were along the Minnesota river and about the headwaters of the Blue Earth and Cannon rivers, and that annual hunting parties visited the region. Many sanguinary wars were also fought here, for the Sacs (Sauks) and the Foxes were not far away, and even the Chippewas occasionally braved the wrath of their enemies and came here after game.

With the coming of the white settlers, the Sioux Indians became rather plentiful in Freeborn county, although at that time the treaties which relinquished the Indian right of title had already been signed. The Winnebago Indians, from their reservation near Mankato, also traversed this county in the days of early settlement, and a party of them on the way to their reservation spent all of one winter in Geneva in the early days. Ballard's point at Albert Lea was a favorite camping ground of the Indians, and a well-defined trail led along the south shore of what is now Fountain lake.



## CHAPTER III.

### INDIAN TREATIES.

**Visit to Washington—Boundary Lines Between Indian Tribes Defined—Territory Now Freeborn County Included in the Sioux Jurisdiction—Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien—Some of Wabasha's Men Killed by Foxes in Iowa—Strip of Territory South of Freeborn County Ceded by Treaty—The Doty Treaty and Its Failure—Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux—Treaty of Mendota, by Which Freeborn County Was Opened to Settlement.**

From prehistoric days up to the time of the treaty signed at Mendota, August 5, 1851. ratified and amended by the United States senate, June 23, 1852; accepted with amendments by the Indians, September 4 and 6, 1852, and proclaimed by President Filmore, February 24, 1853, the territory embraced in Freeborn county remained in the undisputed possession of the Indians, being used as a hunting ground by the Sioux Indians, but also being visited by other redmen. Before this treaty, however, several agreements were made between the Indians of this vicinity and the United States government, regarding mutual relations and the ceding of lands.

**Visit to Washington.** In the spring of 1824 the first delegation of Sioux Indians went to Washington to see their "Great Father," the president. A delegation of Chippewas accompanied, and both were in charge of Major Taliaferro. Wabasha, then properly called Wa-pa-ha-sha, the head chief of the band at Winona; and Little Crow, head of the Kaposia band; and Wah-natah, were the principal members of the Sioux delegation. The object of the visit was to secure a convocation of all of the upper Mississippi Indians at Prairie du Chien to define the boundary line of the lands claimed by the separate tribes and to establish general and permanent friendly relations among them. The party went in keel boats from Fort Snelling to Prairie du Chien, and from there to Pittsburg by steamboat, thence to Washington and other eastern cities by land.

**Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825.** The treaty of Prairie du Chien, signed in 1825, was important to the Indians of this vicinity, in that it fixed certain boundaries between the Sioux and other Indians. The boundary lines were certainly, in some

respects, quite indefinite, and whether this was the trouble or not, in any event, it was but a few months after the treaty when it was evident that none of the Indians who were concerned were willing to be governed by the lines established—and hardly by any others. The first article of the treaty provided: “There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between the Sioux and the Chippewas; between the Sioux and the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes; and between the ‘Ioways’ and the Sioux.” But this provision was more honored in the breach than the observance, and in a little time the tribes named were flying at one another’s throats and engaged in their old-time hostilities. On the part of the Sioux this treaty was signed by Chiefs Wabasha, Little Crow, Standing Buffalo, Sleepy Eye, Two Faces, Tah-sah-ghee, or “His Cane;” Black Dog, Wah-ah-na-tah, or “The Charger;” Red Wing Shakopee, Penishon and Eagle Head, and also by a number of head soldiers and “principal men.” The Chippewa signers were Shingaubas Wassa, Gitche Gaubow, Wis Coup, or “Sugar,” and a number of sub-chiefs and principal men.

**Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien.** In 1830, the second treaty with the northwest Indian tribes was signed at Prairie du Chien. A few weeks previous to the convocation, which was begun July 15, a party of Wabasha’s band of Sioux, and some Menominees, ambushed a party of Fox Indians some twelve or fifteen miles below Prairie du Chien and killed eight of them, including a sub-chief called the Kettle.

The Foxes had their village near Dubuque, and were on their way to Prairie du Chien to visit the Indian agent, whom they had apprised of their coming. They were in canoes on the Mississippi, and as they reached the lower end of Prairie du Pierreux, they paddled up a narrow channel which ran near the eastern shore. At this point their concealed enemies opened fire. The Foxes returned to their village, bearing their dead, while the Sioux and Menominees went home and danced over their victory. A few weeks previous the Foxes had killed some of Wabasha’s band on the Red Cedar river in Iowa, a few miles southeast of Freeborn county, and the Sioux claimed that their part in the Prairie du Pierreux was taken in retaliation for the Red Cedar affair. In June of the following year, a large number of Menominees were camped on an island in the Mississippi, less than half a mile from Fort Crawford and Prairie du Chien. One night they were all intoxicated—men, women and children—when two hours before daylight the Dubuque Foxes took dreadful reprisal for the killing of their brethren at Prairie du Pierreux. Though but a small band, they crept into the Menominee encampment, fell upon the inmates, and in a few minutes put numbers of them to the gun, tomahawk and the scalping knife.



Thirty Menominees were killed. When the entire Menominee band had been aroused, the Foxes, without having lost a man, retired, calling out in great exultation that the cowardly killing of their comrades at Prairie du Pierreux had been avenged.

Because of the Prairie du Pierreux affair, the Foxes at first refused to be present at the second treaty of Prairie du Chien, but finally came. Delegates were present from four bands of the Sioux, the Medawakantons, the Wapakootas, the Wahpatons and the Sissetons, and also from the Sacs, the Foxes and Iowas, and even from the Omahas, Otoes and Missouris, the homes of the last three tribes being on the Missouri river. At this treaty the Indian tribes represented ceded all of the claims to the land in western Iowa, northwestern Missouri, and especially the country of the Des Moines river valley. The lower bands had a special article inserted in the treaty for the benefit of their half-blood relatives:

“The Sioux bands in council have earnestly solicited that they might have permission to bestow upon the half-breeds of their nation the tract of land within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at a place called the Barn, below and near the village of the Red Wing chief, and running back fifteen miles; thence, in a parallel line, with Lake Pepin and the Mississippi river about thirty-two miles, to a point opposite Beef, or O’Boeuf, river, thence fifteen miles to the Grand Encampment, opposite the river aforesaid, the United States agree to suffer said half-breeds to occupy said tract of country, they holding the same title, and in the same manner that other Indian titles are held.”

Certificates or “scrip” were issued to many half-breeds, and there was much speculation in them, and litigation over them, in subsequent years, a matter of which will be treated later in this history. The Sioux also ceded a tract of land twenty miles wide along the northern boundary of Iowa from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, the consideration for which was \$2,000 in cash and \$12,000 in merchandise. Thus it will be seen that as early as 1830 the Indians relinquished their title to the land just south of Freeborn county. The strip in question was for many years known as the “Neutral Land.”

**The Doty Treaty.** The Doty treaty, made at Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter), in July, 1841, failed to be ratified by the United States senate. This treaty embodied a Utopian dream that a territory of Indians could be established, in which the redmen would reside on farms and in villages, living their lives after the style of the whites, having a constitutional form of government, with a legislature of their own people elected by themselves, the governor to be appointed by the president of the United States, much along the plan long followed with the Cherokees in the Indian ter-



ritory, except that it embodied for the Indians a much higher type of citizenship than is found in the Indian territory. The Indians were to be taught the arts of peace, to be paid annuities, and to be protected by the armies of the United States from their Indian enemies on the west. In return for these benefits to be conferred upon the Indians, the United States was to receive all the lands in what is now Minnesota, the Dakotas and northwestern Iowa. This ceded land was not to be opened to the settlement of the whites, and the plan was to have some of it reserved for Indian tribes from other parts of the country who should sell their lands to the United States, and who, in being moved here, were to enjoy all the privileges which had been so beautifully planned for the native Indians. But no one can tell what would have been the result of this experiment, for the senate, for political reasons, refused to ratify the treaty, and it failed of going into effect. This treaty was signed by the Sisseton, Wahpaton and Wahpakoota bands at Traverse des Sioux, July 31, 1841, and by the Medawakanton bands at Mendota, August 11 of the same year.

**Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.** In the spring of 1851 President Fillmore appointed Governor Alexander Ramsey and Luke Lea as commissioners to open negotiations with the Indians for the purpose of opening to settlement what is now the greater part of Minnesota. The conference was held at Traverse des Sioux (now St. Peter), between the chiefs and head men of the Sisseton and Wahpaton, or Upper Bands, as they were called, and the two commissioners. The Indians were accompanied by their families, and many prominent pioneers were also present. The meeting was held under a brush arbor erected by Alexis Bailly, and one of the incidents of the proceedings was the marriage of two mixed blood people, David Faribault and Nancy Winona McClure, the former the son of Jean Baptist Faribault, and the latter of Lieut. James McClure. The treaty was signed July 22, 1851, and provided that the upper bands should cede to the United States all their land in Iowa as well as their lands east of a line from the Red river to Lake Traverse and thence to the northwestern corner of Iowa.

**Treaty of Mendota.** From July 29, 1851, to August 5, Mendota was the scene of the conference which opened Freeborn and surrounding counties to white settlement. The chiefs and head men of the lower bands were thoroughly familiar with the proceedings of the Indians and the representatives of the United States at Traverse des Sioux and all were on hand that bright August day, waiting for the negotiations to open at Mendota. The first session was held in the warehouse of the Fur Company at that place, but the Indians found the atmosphere stifling, and



not in accord with their usual method of outdoor councils, so the consideration of the treaty was taken up under a large brush arbor, erected by Alexis Bailly, on an elevated plain near the high prominence known as Pilot Knob. Dr. Thomas Foster was secretary for Commissioners Lea and Ramsey; the interpreters were Alexander Faribault, Philander Prescott and Rev. G. H. Pond; the white witnesses were David Olmsted, W. C. Henderson, Alexis Bailly, Richard Chute, Henry Jackson, A. L. Carpenter, W. H. Randall, A. S. H. White, H. L. Dousman, Fred C. Sibley, Martin McLeod, George N. Faribault and Joseph A. Wheelock. After much deliberation and many disagreements, the treaty was signed August 5, 1851. Little Crow was the first signer. To the treaty Little Crow signed his original name, Tah O-ya-te Doota, meaning His Red Nation. Wabasha was the next to sign, making his mark. Then the other chiefs, head soldiers and principal warriors crowded around to affix their marks. In all, there were sixty-five Indian signatures.

At Mendota, as at Traverse des Sioux, when the treaty was concluded, each Indian signer stepped to another table where lay another paper which he signed. This was called the traders' paper, and was an agreement to pay the "just debts," so called, of the Indians, including those present and absent, alive and dead, owing to the traders and the trading company. Some of the accounts were nearly thirty years old, and the Indians who had contracted them were dead, but the bands willingly assumed the indebtedness and agreed that it might be discharged out of the first money paid them. The territory ceded by the two treaties was declared to be: "All their lands in the state of Iowa, and also all their lands in the territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line, to-wit: Beginning at the junction of Buffalo river with the Red River of the North (about twelve miles north of Morehead, at Georgetown station, in Clay county), thence along the western bank of said Red River of the North, to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river; thence along the western bank of said Sioux Wood river to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence, in a direct line, to the juncture of Kameska lake with the Tehan-Ka-Sna-Duka, or Sioux river; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the state of Iowa, including all islands in said rivers and lakes."

The lower bands were to receive \$1,410,000, to be paid in the manner and form following: For settling debts and removing themselves to the new reservation, \$220,000, one-half to the Medawakanton bands, and one-half to the single Wahpakoota band; for schools, mills and opening farms, \$30,000. Of the principal of



\$1,410,000, the sum of \$30,000 in cash was to be distributed among the two bands as soon as the treaty was ratified, and \$28,000 was to be expended annually, under the president's direction, as follows: To a civilization fund, \$12,000; to an educational fund, \$6,000; for goods and provisions, \$10,000. The balance of the principal, or \$1,160,000, was to remain in trust with the United States at 5 per cent interest, to be paid annually to the Indians for fifty years, commencing July 1, 1852. The \$58,000 annuity interest was to be expended as the first installment—\$30,000 in cash, \$12,000 for civilization, \$6,000 for education, and \$10,000 for goods and provisions. The back annuities under the treaty of 1837 remaining unexpired were also to be paid annually. Their reservation was to extend from the mouth of the Yellow Medicine and Hawk creek southeasterly to the mouth of Rock creek, a tract twenty miles wide and about forty-five miles in length. The half-breeds of the Sioux were to receive in cash \$150,000 in lieu of lands allowed them under the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1830, but which they had failed to claim.

The written copies of the Traverse des Sioux and the Mendota treaties, duly signed and attested, were forwarded to Washington to be acted upon by the senate at the ensuing session of congress. An unreasonably long delay resulted. Final action was not had until the following summer, when, on July 23, the senate ratified both treaties with important amendments. The provisions for reservations for both the upper and lower bands were stricken out, and substitutes adopted, agreeing to pay ten cents an acre for both reservations, and authorizing the president, with the assent of the Indians, to cause to be set apart other reservations, which were to be within the limits of the original great cession. The provision to pay \$150,000 to the half-bloods of the lower bands was also stricken out. The treaties, with the changes, came back to the Indians for final ratification and agreement to the alterations. The chiefs of the lower bands at first objected very strenuously, but finally, on Saturday, September 4, 1852, at Governor Ramsey's residence in St. Paul they signed the amended articles, and the following Monday the chiefs and head men of the upper bands affixed their marks. As amended, the treaties were proclaimed by President Fillmore, February 24, 1853. The Indians were allowed to remain in their old villages, or, if they preferred, to occupy their reservations as originally designated, until the president selected their new homes. That selection was never made, and the original reservations were finally allowed them. The removal of the lower Indians to their designated reservation began in 1853, but was intermittent, interrupted, and extended over a period of several years. The Indians went up in detachments, as they felt inclined. After living on the reservation for

a time, some of them returned to their old hunting grounds, where they lived continuously for some time, visiting their reservation and agency only at the time of the payment of their annuities. Finally, by the offer of cabins to live in, or other substantial inducements, nearly all of them were induced to settle on the Redwood Reserve, so that in 1862, at the time of the outbreak, less than twenty families of the Medawakantons and Wahpakootas were living off their reservation. With the subsequent history of these Indians this volume will not deal in detail; the purpose of treating with the Indians thus far in this chapter having been to show the various negotiations by which Freeborn county and the surrounding territory came into the possession of the whites and was thus opened for settlement and development.

It should be stated in this connection that the Medawakanton Sioux, generally speaking, had their villages along the west banks of the Mississippi, within the present limits of the state of Minnesota, while the Wahpakoota Sioux had their headquarters around the headwaters of the Blue Earth and Cannon rivers, both within easy marching distance of their hunting grounds in Freeborn county.

Under "Anecdotes and Incidents" in this book will be found a discussion of the lines of the "Neutral Territory."



## CHAPTER IV.

### GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY.

Early Claims of Title—Spain, France and England—Treaties and Agreements — The Louisiana Purchase—Indiana—Louisiana District — Louisiana Territory — Missouri Territory — Northwest Territory—Illinois Territory—Michigan Territory—Wisconsin Territory—Iowa Territory—No Man's Land—Sibley in Congress—Minnesota Territory—Minnesota State.

The history of the early government of what is now southern Minnesota is formulated with some difficulty, as, prior to the nineteenth century, the interior of the country was so little known and the maps upon which claims and grants were founded were so meagre, as well as incorrect and unreliable that descriptions of boundaries and locations as given in the early treaties are vague in the extreme, and very difficult of identification with present-day lines and locations.

The Hon. J. V. Brower, a scholarly authority upon this subject, says—(“The Mississippi River and Its Sources”): “Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by papal grant (that of Alexander VI, May 4, 1493), may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking formal possession of this part of her domains other than incidentally involved in De Soto's doings. The feeble objections which she made in the next two centuries after the discovery to other nations exploring and settling North America were successfully overcome by the force of accomplished facts. The name of Florida, now so limited in its application, was first applied by the Spaniards to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico and proceeding northward indefinitely. This expansiveness of geographical view was paralleled later by the definition of a New France of still greater extent, which practically included all the continent.

“L'Escarbot, in his history of New France, written in 1617, says, in reference to this: ‘Thus our Canada has for its limits on the west side all the lands as far as the sea called the Pacific, on this side of the Tropic of Cancer; on the south the islands of the Atlantic sea in the direction of Cuba and the Spanish land; on the east the northern sea which bathes New France; and on the





OLD LOG CABIN





north the land said to be unknown, toward the icy sea as far as the arctic pole.'

"Judging also by the various grants to individuals, noble and otherwise, and 'companies,' which gave away the country in latitudinal strips extending from the Atlantic westward, the English were not far behind the Spaniards and French in this kind of effrontery. As English colonists never settled on the Mississippi in pursuance of such grants, and never performed any acts of authority there, such shadowy sovereignties may be disregarded here, in spite of the fact that it was considered necessary, many years later, for various states concerned to convey to the United States their rights to territory which they never actually ruled over.

"Thus, in the most arbitrary manner, did the Mississippi river, though yet unknown, become the property, successively, of the Iberian, Gaulish and Anglo-Saxon races—of three peoples who, in later times, by diplomacy and force of arms, struggled for an actual occupancy. Practically, however, the upper Mississippi valley may be considered as having been in the first place Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada who first visited it and traded with its various native inhabitants. The further prosecution of his discoveries by La Salle, in 1682, extended Canada as a French possession to the Gulf of Mexico, though he did not use the name of Canada nor yet that of New France. He preferred to call the entire country watered by the Mississippi river and its tributaries, from its uttermost source to its mouth, by the new name he had already invented for the purpose—Louisiana. The name of Canada and New France had been indifferently used to express about the same extent of territory, but the name of Louisiana now came to supersede them in being applied to the conjectural regions of the West. Although La Salle has applied the latter expression to the entire valley of the Mississippi, it was not generally used in that sense after his time; the upper part of the region was called Canada, and the lower Louisiana; but the actual dividing line between the two provinces was not absolutely established, and their names and boundaries were variously indicated on published maps. Speaking generally, the Canada of the eighteenth century included the Great Lakes and the country drained by their tributaries; the northern one-fourth of the present state of Illinois—that is, as much as lies north of the mouth of the Rock river; all the regions lying north of the northern watershed of the Missouri, and finally the valley of the upper Missouri itself." This would include Freeborn county.

But it is now necessary to go back two centuries previous and consider the various explorations of the Mississippi upon



which were based the claims of the European monarchs. Possibly the mouth of the Mississippi had been reached by Spaniards previous to 1541, possibly Hibernian missionaries as early as the middle of the sixth century, or Welch emigrants (Madoc), about 1170, discovered North America by way of the Gulf of Mexico, but historians give to Hernando de Soto and his band of adventurers the credit of having been the first white men to actually view the Mississippi on its course through the interior of the continent and of being the first ones to actually traverse its waters. De Soto sighted the Mississippi in May, 1541, at the head of an expedition in search of gold and precious stones. In the following spring, weary with hope long deferred, and worn out with his adventures, De Soto fell a victim to disease, and died May 21, 1541. His followers, greatly reduced in number by sickness, after wandering about in a vain searching, built three small vessels and descended to the mouth of the Mississippi, being the first white men to reach the outlet of that great river from the interior. However, they were too weary and discouraged to lay claim to the country, and took no notes of the region through which they passed.

In 1554, James Cartier, a Frenchman, discovered the St. Lawrence, and explored it as far as the present site of Quebec. The next year he ascended the river to Mont Real, the lofty hill for which Montreal was named. Thereafter all the country drained by the St. Lawrence was claimed by the French. Many years later the King of France granted the "basin of the St. Lawrence and all the rivers flowing through it to the sea," to a company, whose leader was Champlain, the founder of Quebec, which became the capital of New France, whose then unexplored territory stretched westward to well within the boundaries of what is now Minnesota. In 1613-15 Champlain explored the Ottawa river, and the Georgian bay to Lake Huron, and missions were established in the Huron country. Missionaries and fur traders were the most active explorers of the new possessions. They followed the shores of the Great Lakes and then penetrated further and further into the wilderness. As they went they tried to make friends of the red men, established trading posts and raised the Christian cross. In 1641 Jogues and Raymbault, Jesuits, after a long and perilous voyage in frail canoes and bateaux, reached the Sault Ste. Marie, where they heard of a large river, the Mich-is-ip-e, flowing southward to the sea, and of a powerful Indian tribe dwelling near its headwaters. Stories of vast fertile plains, of numberless streams, of herds of buffalo, and of many people, in regions far to the west and south, roused missionaries and traders anew, and the voyages and trips of the explorers became more frequent.



In 1659-60 Radisson and Groselliers, proceeding westward from Lake Superior, entered what is now Minnesota. They spent some time in the "forty villages of the Dakotas," in the vicinity of Mille Lacs, and probably were the first white men to set foot on the soil of this state. The contention that these adventurers spent a part of the years 1655-56 on Prairie Island, in the Mississippi just above Red Wing, is disputed by most historians, but still forms an interesting subject for study and conjecture.

Some writers also claim that the Frenchman, Sieur Nicollet, who should not be confused with the Nicollet of a later date, reached the Mississippi in 1639.

Rene Menard, a Jesuit missionary, reached the Mississippi in 1661 by way of Wisconsin. This was twelve years prior to its discovery by Marquette and Joliet, and to Menard historians in general give the honor of the discovery of the upper waters of the great river. Menard ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Black river, Wis., and was lost in a forest near the source of that stream while attempting to carry the gospel to the Hurons. His sole companion "called him and sought him, but he made no reply and could not be found." Some years later his camp kettle, robe and prayer book were seen in the possession of the Indians.

In the summer of 1663 the intelligence of the fate of Menard reached Quebec, and on August 8, 1665, Father Claude Allouez, who had anxiously waited two years for the means of conveyance, embarked for Lake Superior with a party of French traders and Indians. He visited the Minnesota shores of Lake Superior in the fall of 1665, established the Mission of the Holy Spirit at La Pointe, now in Wisconsin, and we are told "was the first to write 'Messipi,' the name of the great river of the Sioux country," as he heard it pronounced by the Chippewas, or rather as it sounded to his ears.

May 13, 1673, Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet, the former a priest and the latter the commander of the expedition, set out with five assistants, and on June 17 of the same year reached the Mississippi at the present site of Prairie du Chien, thence continuing down the river as far as the mouth of the Illinois, which they ascended, subsequently reaching the lakes.

In 1678, the Sieur De Luth, Daniel Graysolon, under commission from the governor of Canada, set out from Quebec, to explore the country west of the Lake Superior region. He was to take possession of it in the name of the king of France, and secure the trade of the native tribes. De Luth entered Minnesota in 1679, reaching the great Sioux village of Kathio at Mille Lacs, on July 2. "On that day," he says, "I had the honor to plant His Majesty's arms, where a Frenchman never before had been."



La Salle, however, was the first to lay claim to the entire valley in the name of his sovereign. After achieving perpetual fame by the discovery of the Ohio river (1670-71), he conceived the plan of reaching the Pacific by way of the northern Mississippi, at that time unexplored and supposed to be a waterway connecting the two oceans. Frontenac, then governor-general of Canada, favored the plan, as did the king of France. Accordingly, gathering a company of Frenchmen, he pursued his way through the lakes, made a portage to the Illinois river, and January 4, 1680, reached what is now Lake Peoria, in Illinois. From there, in February, he sent Hennepin and two companions to explore the upper Mississippi. During this voyage Hennepin and the men accompanying him were taken by the Indians as far north as Mille Lacs. He also discovered St. Anthony Falls. Needing reinforcements, La Salle again returned to Canada. In January, 1682, with a band of followers, he started on his third and greatest expedition. February 6, they reached the Mississippi by way of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river, and March 6, discovered the three great passages by which the river discharges its waters into the Gulf. Two days later they reascended the river a short distance, to find a high spot out of the reach of inundations, and there erected a column and planted a cross, proclaiming with due ceremony the authority of the king of France. Thus did the whole Mississippi valley pass under the nominal sovereignty of the French monarchs.

The first definite claim to the upper Mississippi is embodied in a paper, still preserved, in the colonial archives of France, entitled "The record of the taking possession, in his majesty's name, of the Bay des Puants (Green bay), of the lake and rivers of the Outagamis and Maskoutins (Fox river and Lake Winnebago), of the river Ouiskonche (Wisconsin), and that of the Mississippi, the country of the Nadouesieux (the Sioux or Dakota Indians), the rivers St. Croix and St. Pierre (Minnesota), and other places more remote, May 8, 1689." (E. B. O'Callahan's translation in 1855, published in Vol. 9, page 418, "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.") This claim was made by Perrot, and the proclamation is supposed to have been issued from Fort St. Antonie (Anthony) near the present site of Trempealeau.

The previous proclamations of St. Luson in 1671 at the outlet of Lake Superior, of De Luth, in 1679, at the west end of the same lake and at Mille Lacs, had no definite bearing on the land now embraced in Freeborn county, but nevertheless strengthened the French claims of sovereignty.

For over eight decades thereafter, the claims of France were, tacitly at least, recognized in Europe. In 1763 there came a



change. Of this change, A. N. Winchell (in Vol. 10, "Minnesota Historical Society Collections") writes: "The present eastern boundary of Minnesota, in part (that is so far as the Mississippi now form its eastern boundary), has a history beginning at a very early date. In 1763, at the end of that long struggle during which England passed many a mile post in her race for world empire, while France lost nearly as much as Britain gained—that struggle, called in America, the French and Indian War—the Mississippi river became an international boundary. The articles of the definite treaty of peace were signed at Paris, on February 10, 1763. The seventh article made the Mississippi, from its source to about the 31st degree of north latitude, the boundary between the English colonies on this continent and the French Louisiana. The text of the article is as follows (Published in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 33, pages 121-126, March, 1763):

"VII. In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute to the limits of the British and French Territories on the continent of America;—that for the future, the confines between the domains of his Britannic majesty and those of his most Christian majesty (the king of France) in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn down the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lake Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea." The boundary from the source of the river further north, or west, or in any direction, was not given; it was evidently supposed that it would be of no importance, for many centuries, at least.

This seventh article of the definite treaty was identical with the sixth article in the preliminary treaty of peace signed by England, Spain and France, at Fontainebleu, November 3, 1762. On that same day, November 3, 1762, the French and Spanish representatives had signed another act by which the French king "ceded to his cousin of Spain, and his successors forever \* \* \* all the country known by the name of Louisiana, including New Orleans and the island on which that city is situated." This agreement was kept secret, but when the definite treaty was signed at Paris the following year, this secret pact went into effect, and Spain at once became the possessor of the area described.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the territory east of the Mississippi, and north of the 31st parallel, passed under the jurisdiction of the United States. By the definite treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, ratified at Paris, September 3, 1783, a part of the northern boundary of the



United States, and the western boundary thereof was established, as follows: Commencing at the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods and from thence on a due course west to the Mississippi river (the Mississippi at that time was thought to extend into what is now Canada), thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said Mississippi river until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, page 82.)

In 1800, by the secret treaty of San (or Saint) Ildefonso (signed October 1), Spain receded the indefinite tract west of the Mississippi to France, which nation did not, however, take formal possession until three years later, when the formality was made necessary in order that the tract might be ceded to the United States. Napoleon, for France, sold the tract to the United States, April 30, 1803. The region comprehended in the "Louisiana Purchase," as this area was called, included all the country west of the Mississippi, except those portions west of the Rocky mountains actually occupied by Spain, and extended as far north as the British territory.

By an act of congress, approved October 31, 1803, the president of the United States was authorized to take possession of this territory, the act providing that "all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government, shall be vested in such person and persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct." (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 245.)

December 20, 1803, Louisiana was formally turned over to the United States at New Orleans, by M. Laussat, the civil agent of France, who a few days previous (November 30) had received a formal transfer from representatives of Spain.

**Louisiana District.** By an act of congress, approved March 26, 1804, all of that portion of the country ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, lying south of the 33d degree of north latitude, was organized as the territory of Orleans and all the residue thereof was organized as the district of Louisiana. That act contained the following provision: "The executive power now vested in the government of the Indiana territory shall extend to and be exercised in said district of Louisiana." The area set off as the territory of Orleans was admitted as the state of Louisiana in 1812.

**Louisiana Territory.** By an act of congress approved March 3, 1805 all that part of the country embraced in the district of Louisiana, was organized as a territory, called the territory of Louisiana.

**Missouri Territory.** By an act of congress approved June 4,



1814, it was provided that the territory hitherto called Louisiana should be called Missouri, and was organized as a territory. The struggles in congress which led to the Missouri compromise; the agreement that all territory west of Missouri and north of parallel 36° 36' should forever be free from the curse of slavery, and the final admission of Missouri with her present boundaries, by presidential proclamation, August 10, 1821, are outside of the province of this history. Sufficient is it to say here that this admission left the land to the northward, including Freeborn county, without a fountain head of territorial government from that date until June 28, 1834, when it was attached to Michigan.

---

It is now necessary to turn to the events that had been transpiring in regard to the government of the area east of the Mississippi and northwest of the Ohio river.

**The Northwest Territory** embraced all the area of the United States northwest of the Ohio river. By the provisions of the famous "Northwest Ordinance," passed July 13, 1787, by the Congress of the Confederation (the constitution of the United States not being adopted until September 17), the Ohio river became the boundary of the territory. The fifth article of the ordinance reads as follows: "Art. 5. There shall be formed in the said (i. e., the Northwest) territory, not less than three, nor more than five states," \* \* \* the western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi. (See Executive Documents, 3d session, 46th congress, 1880-81, Vol. 25, Doc. 47, Part 4, pages 153-156; also United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 1, page 51, note a.)

**Indiana Territory.** The ordinance of 1787 provided for the organization of three "states" out of the Northwest Territory. That same year the constitution of the United States was adopted. In 1799, Ohio organized a territorial government, but the middle and western "states" did not have, separately, sufficient population to warrant the establishment of two separate governments. Congress solved the difficulty by uniting the two under the name of Indiana. The act was passed May 7, 1800, and its first section reads as follows: "Section 1—Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the fourth day of July next, all that part of the territory of the United States, northwest of the Ohio river, which lies to the westward of a line beginning at the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north until it shall intersect the territorial line between



the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called the Indiana Territory.” (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 58.) Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816.

**Michigan Territory.** By an act of congress passed June 11, 1805, Michigan territory was formed. The boundaries were described as follows: “All that part of the Indiana territory which lies north of a line drawn east from the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the said southerly bend through the middle of said lake to its northern extremity, and thence due north of the northern boundary of the United States, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, to be called Michigan. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 309.) Additions, noted further along in this article, were later made to this territory.

**Illinois Territory.** In 1809, settlers had come in so fast that there were sufficient citizens in Indiana territory to support two governments. Accordingly, the territory of Illinois was established, February 3, 1809, by the following enactment: “Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the first day of March, next, all that part of the Indiana territory which lies west of the Wabash river and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash river and Post Vincennes, due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, and be called Illinois. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 514.) Illinois was admitted as a state in 1818.

**Michigan Territory.** The population of Illinois continued to increase, and the people were eager for a state government. The southern portion was therefore granted statehood privileges, and the northern portion, mainly unoccupied, was cut off and added to the territory of Michigan, previously created. This transfer of territory was authorized in section 7 of the act passed April 18, 1818, enabling Illinois to form a state government and constitution. The terms of the act are as follows: “Section 7. And be it further enacted, That all that part of the territory of the United States lying north of the state of Indiana, and which was included in the former Indiana territory, together with that part of the Illinois territory which is situated north of, and not included within the boundaries prescribed by this act (viz., the boundaries of the state of Illinois) to the state thereby authorized to be formed, shall be and hereby is, attached to and made a part of the Michigan territory.” Thus matters remained for sixteen years.

Missouri, in the meantime, had been admitted as a state



(1821), and the territory north of that state, and west of the Mississippi, was practically without organized authority from that year until 1834, when the increase of settlement made it advisable that the benefits of some sort of government should be extended to its area. Consequently, Michigan territory was extended to include this vast region. The act so enlarging Michigan territory passed congress June 28, 1834, in the following terms: "Be it enacted, etc., That all that part of the territory of the United States, bounded on the east by the Mississippi river, on the south of the state of Missouri, and a line drawn due west from the northwest corner of said state to the Missouri river; on the southwest and west by the Missouri river and the White Earth river, falling into the same, and on the north by the northern boundary of the United States, shall be, and hereby is, for the purpose of temporary government attached to and made a part of, the territory of Michigan." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 4, page 701.) In less than two years, certain territory was set apart to form the proposed state of Michigan. This act passed congress April 20, 1836, but Michigan was not admitted until January 26, 1837. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, pages 10-16.)

**Wisconsin Territory.** When Wisconsin territory was organized by an act of congress, April 20, 1836, all the Louisiana purchase north of the state of Missouri was placed under its jurisdiction. This included Freeborn county. The boundaries as given at that time were as follows: "Bounded on the east by a line drawn from the northeast corner of the state of Illinois through the middle of Lake Michigan to a point in the middle of said lake and opposite the main channel of Green Bay and through said channel and Green Bay to the mouth of the Menominee river, thence through the middle of the main channel of said river to that head of said river nearest the Lake of the Desert, thence in a direct line to the middle of said lake, thence through the middle of the main channel of the Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said Lake, northwest, thence on the north with the said territorial line to the White Earth river (located in what is now Wood county, North Dakota). On the west by a line from the said boundary line, following down the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the Missouri river, and down the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to a point due west from the northwest corner of the state of Missouri; and on the south from said point due east to the northwest corner of the state of Missouri, and thence with the boundaries of the states of Missouri and Illinois as already fixed by act of congress. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, page 18.) It is interesting to note in this connection



that two sessions of the Wisconsin territorial legislature were held at what is now Burlington, Iowa.

**Iowa Territory.** The territory of Iowa was created by the act of congress, June 12, 1838, which act divided the territory of Wisconsin along the Mississippi river and named the western part, Iowa. The act provided: "That from and after the third day of July, next, all that part of the present territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due south from the head waters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial lines, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, be and constitute a separate territorial government, by the name of Iowa." The area embracing Freeborn county was included within these lines.

Iowa remained a territory from 1838 to 1846. The greater part of southern and southeastern Minnesota was within the jurisdiction of Clayton county. Henry H. Sibley was a justice of the peace in that county. The county seat was 250 miles distant from his home in Mendota, and his jurisdiction extended over a region of country, which, as he expressed it, was "as large as the empire of France." A convention of duly authorized representatives of the people remained in session at Iowa City from October 7 to November 1, 1844, and framed a state constitution. It was provided that the constitution adopted, together with any alterations which might subsequently be made by congress, should be submitted to the people of the territory for their approval or rejection at the township elections in April, 1845. The boundaries of the proposed new state, as defined in the constitution, were in part as follows: " \* \* \* Thence up in the middle of the main channel of the river last mentioned (the Missouri) to the mouth of the Sioux or Calumet river; thence in a direct line to the middle of the main channel of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) river, where the Watonwan river—according to Nicollet's map—enters the same, thence down the middle of the main channel of said river to the middle of the Mississippi river; thence down the middle of said river to the place of beginning." This would have included in the state of Iowa Freeborn county, and in fact, all the counties of what is now Minnesota that lie south and east of the Minnesota as far as Mankato, also including Faribault county and nearly all of Martin, the greater part of Blue Earth and portions of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Jackson.

Congress rejected these boundary lines, and March 3, 1845, in its enabling act, substituted the following description of the proposed boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines river, in the middle of the Mississippi; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue Earth river;



thence west along said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line  $17^{\circ} 30'$  west of the meridian of Washington City; thence due south to the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri; thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects with the Des Moines river; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning." Thus the southern boundary of Minnesota would have been on a line due east from the present city of Mankato to the Mississippi river and due west from the same point to a point in Brown county. This would have included in Iowa all but a small fraction of the counties of Winona, Olmstead, Dodge, Steele, Waseca and Blue Earth, portions of Brown, Watonwan and Martin; and all of Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. This reduction in its proposed territory was not pleasing to those citizens of Iowa, who wished the state to have its boundaries to include the Minnesota river from the Blue Earth to the Mississippi and the Mississippi from the Minnesota river to the Missouri state line. This changing in the boundary was really a political measure, a part of those battles in congress over free and slave states which preceded the Civil War. The boundaries as proposed by congress were rejected by the people of Iowa after a bitter campaign. August 4, 1846, congress passed a second enabling act, which was accepted by the people by a narrow margin of 456, the vote being 9,492 for and 9,036 against. This second act placed the northern boundary of Iowa still further south, but added territory to the west. The northern boundary of Iowa, as described in the enabling act, was identical with the parallel of  $43^{\circ} 30'$  north, from the Big Sioux river eastward to the Mississippi. This, with the exception of the short distance from the Big Sioux river to the present western boundary of Minnesota, is the present southern boundary of our state. Minnesota's southern boundary, as thus described, was carefully surveyed and marked within six years of its acceptance by Iowa. The work was authorized March 3, 1849, and two appropriations of \$1,500 each were soon made. The survey was completed during the years 1849 to 1852, at a total cost of \$32,277.73. Although the work was done with the best instruments then known, an error of twenty-three chains, evidently due to carelessness, was discovered within a year. Iowa was admitted as a state December 28, 1846.

**Wisconsin State.** Wisconsin soon wished to become a state. The northwestern boundary provoked considerable discussion both in congress and in the two constitutional conventions which were called. There were some who wished to include all the remaining portion of the northwest territory within the boundaries of the new proposed state. The two prevailing coteries, however, were the ones between whom the fight really centered.



One body wished the northwestern boundary of the new state (Wisconsin) to extend up the Mississippi as far as the Rum river, where the city of Anoka is now situated, thence northeastwardly to the first rapids of the St. Louis river and thence to Lake Superior. The residents of the St. Croix valley, and those living on the east side of the Mississippi, between the St. Croix and the Rum river, constituted the other party and objected to being included in the proposed state of Wisconsin. They declared that they were separated from the settled portions of Wisconsin by hundreds of miles of barren land, and still more greatly separated by a difference in the interests and character of the inhabitants. They proposed that the northwest boundary of the new state should be a line drawn due south from Shagwamigan bay, on Lake Superior, to the intersection of the main Chippewa river, and from thence down the middle of said river to its debouchure into the Mississippi. Residents of the district affected and also about Fort Snelling and on the west bank of the Mississippi further up joined in a memorial to congress, citing the grave injustice that would be done the proposed territory of Minnesota if it were left without a single point on the Mississippi below St. Anthony's falls, the limit of navigation. Among those who signed this memorial were H. H. Sibley and Alexander Faribault. The result of the controversy was a compromise adopting a middle line along the St. Croix and St. Louis rivers.

The enabling act for the state of Wisconsin, approved August 6, 1846, provided: "That the people of the territory of Wisconsin be and they are hereby authorized to form a constitution and state government \* \* \* with the following boundaries, to-wit: \* \* \* thence through the center of Lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Louis river, thence up the main channel of said river to the first rapids in the same, above the Indian village, according to Nicollet's map; thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix; thence down the main channel of said river to the Mississippi; thence down the main channel of said river to the northwest corner of the state of Illinois, thence due east \* \* \*." This is the first and incidentally the present description of Minnesota's eastern boundary. (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 9. page 56.)

The convention that framed the constitution of Wisconsin in 1847-48 strongly desired the Rum river as their western boundary. After accepting the boundary chosen by congress the convention recommended a line which, if agreeable to congress, should replace the one in the enabling act. The proposed boundary, which was rejected, was described as follows. Leaving the aforesaid boundary line at the first rapids of the St. Louis river, thence in a direct line, bearing southwestwardly to the mouth of the Isko-



dewabo or Rum river, where the same empties into the Mississippi river, thence down the main channel of the said Mississippi river to the aforesaid boundary. (Charters and Constitutions of the United States, Part ii, page 2030.)

**Minnesota Territory.** The events which led up to the establishing of Minnesota as a territory can be given but brief mention here. Sufficient is it to say that for three years after the admission of Iowa (in 1846) the area that is now Minnesota, west of the Mississippi, was practically a no-man's land. December 18, 1846, Morgan L. Martin, delegate from Wisconsin territory, gave notice to the house of representatives that "at an early day" he would ask leave to introduce a bill establishing the territorial government of Minnesota. The name, which is the Indian term for what was then the river St. Peter (Pierre) and has now become its official designation was, it is believed, applied to the proposed territory at the suggestion of Joseph R. Brown. During its consideration by congress the bill underwent various changes. As reported back to the house, the name "Minnesota" had been changed by Stephen A. Douglas to "Itasca." Mr. Martin immediately moved that the name "Minnesota" be placed in the bill in place of "Itasca." "Chippewa," "Jackson" and "Washington" were also proposed. After many motions, counter motions and amendments, "Minnesota" was placed in the bill, which with a minor change passed the house. In the senate it was rejected. A second attempt was made two years later. January 10, 1848, Stephen A. Douglas gave due notice to the senate that "at a future day" he would introduce a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. He brought in the bill February 23. It was several times read, was amended, referred to committee and discussed, but congress adjourned August 14 without taking ultimate action on the proposition.

In the meantime Wisconsin was admitted to the Union May 29, 1848, and the western half of what was then St. Croix county was left outside the new state. The settled portions of the area thus cut off from Wisconsin by its admission to statehood privileges were in the southern part of the peninsula of land lying between the Mississippi and the St. Croix.

The people of this area were now confronted with a serious problem. As residents of the territory of Wisconsin they had enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in the United States. By the creation of the state of Wisconsin they were disfranchised and left without the benefits of organized government. Thus, Stillwater, which had been the governmental seat of a growing county (St. Croix), was left outside the pale of organized law. Legal minds disagreed on the question of whether the minor civil officers, such as justices of the peace, created under the territorial



organization, were still qualified to exercise the authority of their positions. At a meeting held at St. Paul, in July, 1848, the citizens of that (then) village considered the necessity for the formation of a new territory. August 5 a meeting of citizens of the area west of the St. Croix was held at Stillwater, and it was decided to call a general convention at that place, August 26, 1848, for a three-fold purpose: 1—To elect a territorial delegate to congress. 2—To organize a territory with a name other than Wisconsin. 3—To determine whether the laws and organization of the old territory of Wisconsin were still in effect now that a part of that territory was organized as a state. In the call for this meeting, the signers called themselves, "We, the undersigned citizens of Minnesota territory." The meeting was held pursuant to the call. Action was taken in regard to the first proposition by the election of H. H. Sibley, who was authorized to proceed to Washington and use such efforts as were in his power to secure the organization of the territory of Minnesota in regard to the second proposition a memorial was addressed to the president of the United States, stating the reasons why the organization of Minnesota territory was necessary. The third proposition presented technical points worthy of the attention of the wisest legal minds. The state of Wisconsin had been organized, but the territory of Wisconsin had not been abolished. Was not, therefore, the territory still in existence, and did not its organization and its laws still prevail in the part of the territory that had not been included in the state? If territorial government was in existence would it not give the residents thereof a better standing before the nation in their desire to become Minnesota territory? Might not this technicality give the delegate a seat in congress when otherwise he must, as simply the representative of an unorganized area, make his requests in the lobby and to the individual members? John Catlin, who had been secretary of the territory of Wisconsin before the organization of that state, declared that the territory still existed in the area not included in the organized state and that he was the acting governor. Accordingly, the people of the cut-off portion organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin," and named a day for the election of a delegate. In the closely contested election, held October 30, 1848, Sibley won out against Henry M. Rice and accordingly made his way to Washington, technically from the "Territory of Wisconsin," actually as a representative of the proposed territory of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, indeed, Sibley, living at Mendota, had ceased to be a citizen of the territory of Wisconsin in 1838, when Iowa territory was created, and was a resident of the part of Iowa territory which the organization of the state of Iowa had left without a government, rather than of that territory in question (between



the Mississippi and the St. Croix) which the admission of Wisconsin as a state had left without a government. Sibley was, however, after much opposition, admitted to congress and given a seat January 15, 1849. He at once set about securing friends for the proposition to create Minnesota territory. December 4, 1848, a few days previous to Sibley's admission to congress, Stephen A. Douglas had announced that it was his intention to introduce anew a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. Like the previous attempt, this bill underwent various vicissitudes. As passed, March 3, 1849, the act creating the territory read as follows: "Be it enacted, \* \* \* That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies within the following limites, to-wit: Beginning in the Mississippi river at a point where the line of  $43^{\circ}$  and  $30'$  of north latitude crosses the same, thence running due west on said line, which is the northern boundary of the state of Iowa, to the northwest corner of the said state of Iowa; thence southerly along the western boundary of said state to the point where said boundary strikes the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain; thence east and south of east along the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain to Lake Superior; thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior; thence along the western boundary of the state of Wisconsin to the Mississippi river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning, and the same is hereby erected into a temporary government by the name of the territory of Minnesota."

1198505

The executive power of the territory of Minnesota was vested in a governor, (appointed by the president, whose term of office was four years, unless sooner removed by the president), who was also superintendent of Indian affairs. The legislative power was vested in a governor and a legislative assembly, consisting of a council of nine members, whose term of office was two years, and a house of representatives of eighteen members, whose term of office was one year. . It was provided that the number of members in the council and the house might be increased by the legislative assembly from time to time in proportion to the increase in population, but that the whole number should not exceed fifteen councillors and thirty-nine representatives. It was provided that the first election should be held at such time and place and be conducted in such manner as the governor should appoint and direct, and that the persons thus elected to the legislative assembly



should meet at such place, and on such days as the governor should appoint, but thereafter the time and place and manner of holding and conducting all elections by the people, and the apportioning the representatives in the several counties and districts, to the council and house of representatives, according to the population, should be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the commencement of the regular sessions of the legislative assembly, but that no session should exceed sixty days.

Every white male inhabitant above the age of twenty-one, who was a resident of the territory at the time of the passage of the act organizing the same, was entitled to vote and eligible to office at the election. But the qualification of voters and of holding office at all subsequent elections should be such as should be prescribed by the legislative assembly. It was provided by the act that all laws passed by the legislative assembly should be submitted to congress, and if disapproved by it, should be null and of no effect. The laws in force in the territory of Wisconsin after the date of the admission of the state of Wisconsin were continued to be valid and in operation in the territory of Minnesota so far as not incompatible with the provisions of the act of organization of the territory of Minnesota, subject to be altered, modified or repealed by the governor and legislative assembly of said territory. All justices of the peace, constables, sheriffs and all other judicial and ministerial officers who were in office within the limits of the territory at the time of law organizing the territory was approved were authorized and required to continue to exercise and perform the duties of their respective offices as officers of the territory of Minnesota temporarily and until they, or others, should be appointed and qualified in the manner therein described or until their offices should be abolished.

The governor was given the veto power, and the council and house could pass a bill over his veto by a two-thirds vote. The judicial power of the territory was vested in a supreme court, district court, probate court and in justices of the peace. The supreme court consisted of a chief justice and two associate justices, appointed by the president, whose term of office was four years and whose salary was \$1,800 a year.

The territory was by the act of organization required to be divided into three judicial districts, and the district court to be held therein by one of the judges of the supreme court at such times and places as might be prescribed by law, and the judges thereof were required to reside in the districts assigned to them. The clerks of said courts were appointed by the judges thereof.

The United States officers of the territory were a governor, secretary, chief justice, two associate justices, attorney and marshal, appointed by the president with the advice and consent of



the senate of the United States. The governor received a salary of \$1,500 a year as governor and \$1,000 a year as superintendent of Indian affairs. The chief justice and associate justices and secretary received a salary of \$1,800 a year, and the members of the legislative assembly \$3 a day during their attendance upon the sessions thereof and \$3 each day for every twenty miles traveled going to and returning therefrom.

**State of Minnesota.** The people of the territory of Minnesota were not long content with a territorial government. In the words of A. N. Winchell, "December 24, 1856; the delegate from the territory of Minnesota introduced a bill to authorize the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government. The bill limited the proposed state on the west by the Red River of the North and the Big Sioux river. It was referred to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was chairman. January 31, 1857, the chairman reported a substitute, which differed from the original bill in no essential respect except in regard to the western boundary. The change there consisted in adopting a line through Traverse and Big Stone lakes, due south from the latter to the Iowa line. The altered boundary cut off a narrow strip of territory, estimated by Mr. Grow to contain between five and six hundred square miles. Today the strip contains such towns as Sioux Falls, Watertown and Brookings. The substitute had a stormy voyage through congress, especially in the senate, but finally completed the trip on February 25, 1857."

The enabling act, as passed and approved February 26, 1857, defined the boundaries of Minnesota as follows: "Be it enacted,  
\* \* \* That the inhabitants of that portion of the territory of Minnesota, which is embraced with the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the point in the center of the main channel of the Red River of the North, where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions crosses the same; thence up the main channel of said river to that of the Bois des Sioux river; thence (up) the main channel of said river to Lake Traverse; thence up the center of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the head of Big Stone lake; thence through its center to its outlet; thence by a due south line to the north line of the state of Iowa; thence east along the northern boundary of said state to the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of said river and following the boundary line of the state of Wisconsin, until the same intersects the St. Louis river; thence down said river to and through Lake Superior, on the boundary line of Wisconsin and Michigan, until it intersects the dividing line between the United States and the British possessions; thence up Pigeon river and following said



dividing line to the place of beginning; be and the same are thereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, by the name of the state of Minnesota, and to come into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, according to the federal constitution.''

These boundaries were accepted without change and are the boundaries of the state at the present time. The state was admitted May 11, 1858.

It will therefore be seen that the territorial claim of title to Freeborn county was first embraced in the papal grant to Spain, May 4, 1493. It was then included in the indefinite claims made by Spain to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies; by the English to lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements, and by the French to lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements. The first definite claim to territory now embracing Freeborn county was made by LaSalle at the mouth of the Mississippi, March 8, 1682, in the name of the king of France, and the second (still more definite) by Perrot near the present site of Trempealeau, Wis., May 8, 1689. This was also a French claim. France remained in tacit authority until February 10, 1763, when, upon England's acknowledging the French authority to lands west of the Mississippi, France, by a previous secret agreement, turned her authority over to Spain. October 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France, but France did not take formal possession until November 30, 1803, and almost immediately, December 20, 1803, turned it over to the United States, the Americans having purchased it from Napoleon April 30 of that year.

March 26, 1804, the area that is now Freeborn county was included in Louisiana district as a part of Indiana and so remained until March 3, 1805. From March 3, 1805, to June 4, 1812, it was a part of Louisiana territory. From June 4, 1812, until August 10, 1820, it was a part of Missouri territory. From August 10, 1821, until June 28, 1834, it was outside the pale of all organized government, except that congress had general jurisdiction. From June 28, 1834, to April 20, 1836, it was a part of Michigan territory. From April 20, 1836, to June 12, 1838, it was a part of Wisconsin territory. From June 12, 1838, to December 28, 1846, it was a part of the territory of Iowa and was included in the boundaries at first proposed for the state of Iowa. From December 28, 1846, to March 3, 1849, it was again without territorial affiliation. From March 3, 1849, to May 11, 1858, it was a part of Minnesota territory, and on the latter date became an integral part of that sovereign state.



## CHAPTER V.

### EARLY EXPLORATIONS.

**No Evidence that Earliest Minnesota Explorers Reached Freeborn County—Visit of the United States Dragoons in 1835—Albert Miller Lea, the Topographer of the Expedition—Lea's Own Story—His Later Visit to Freeborn County—Early Hunting Expeditions—Great Amount of Game Secured in This Vicinity—Sibley and Rice—Early Surveys.**

From time immemorial until some time after the coming of the whites, the territory now embraced in Freeborn county was the hunting ground of the Indians. As there were no permanent Indian villages here, and little of geographic interest in the sweep of prairie now embraced in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa, none of the earlier explorers, so far as we know, visited Freeborn county. Hennepin with his two companions, Pickard du Guy (Auguelle) and Michael Accault (Ako), who explored the upper Mississippi in 1680; Perrot, who had trading posts about Lake Pepin as early as 1685, LeSueur, who built a fort near Red Wing on Prairie Island in 1695, and one near Mankato in 1700; La Hontan, who wrote marvelous accounts of adventures, and who is now entirely discredited by historians; Jonathan Carver, who ascended the upper Mississippi in 1766; Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, who explored the upper Mississippi in 1805-06; Colonel Henry Leavenworth, who in 1819 established at Mendota in what is now Dakota county, the fort which was afterwards moved across the Minnesota river and became Fort Snelling; Major Stephen H. Long, who explored the upper Mississippi in 1817 and 1823; Governor Lewis Cass, who in 1820 explored the principal sources of the Mississippi and then descended the river; William Morrison, who visited Lake Itasca in the winter of 1803-04, and is usually credited as the discoverer of the source of the Mississippi; Henry R. Schoolcraft, who in 1832 explored northern Minnesota; George Featherstone, who made a geological survey of the Minnesota valley in 1835; George Catlin, who made a faithful study of the Indians of Minnesota; Jean Nicollet, whose activities in the thirties and forties contributed much to Minnesota geography, and David Dale Owen, who explored large portions of the state in 1847, '48, '49 and '50, and whose names are honored as the early explorers of Minnesota, all failed, so far as we know, to make Freeborn county a visit.

It is possible that missionaries, renegades, traders or hunters visited this region, in the days of the early exploration, but of this, historians have no record or knowledge, although those who enjoy speculation and conjecture think it quite possible the Frenchmen from the posts of Perrot on Lake Pepin, the stockades at Frontenac, or the forts at Prairie Island and Mankato may have come here after game. It is also apparent that even in 1835, when the first recorded exploration of this region was made, there had already been at least one map made of this locality, with the predominant physical features more or less accurately drawn. The first recorded explorer himself has declared that he had with him Tanner's Map of the United States, published in 1832, and that he found this map most useful. Just how thoroughly this part of Minnesota was mapped thereon is impossible to state.

The first visit by white men to the present area of Freeborn county, of which any record is found, was made in 1835, by Companies B, H, and I, of the First United States Dragoons, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Stephen W. Kearney, the topographer of the expedition being Lieut. Albert Miller Lea.

The Dragoons, created by congress in March, 1833 and organized for the more perfect defense of the frontier, were a fine body of men who had been enlisted from nearly every state in the Union in the summer months of 1833. The commanding officer of this regiment of ten companies was Col. Henry Dodge, a most valliant soldier.

The trip, which has so much interest to the people of Freeborn county, was a march of 1,100 miles by Companies B, H and I, under Lieut.-Col. Stephen W. Kearney. On June 7, 1835, this detachment left Fort Des Moines and marched between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers to near the mouth of the Boone river. Then taking a northeastwardly course across Iowa, they entered what is now Minnesota, crossed Mower county, and reached Wabashaw's village on the Mississippi at practically the present site of Winona. After remaining there about a week, the companies marched somewhat to the south of westwardly. They crossed the present Freeborn county and continued westward, then turning southward, and entering Iowa in what is now Kossuth county, reaching the Des Moines river safely. After crossing the river, they descended it on the lower side and reached Fort Des Moines on August 19, 1835, without the loss of a single horse or man. Lieut. Albert Miller Lea, attached to Company I, of the expedition, was the official topographer, and in his honor Nicollet afterwards named a previously undesignated lake which the expedition passed in the present Freeborn county.



Lea's book, "Notes on Wisconsin Territory," was published in 1836 by Henry S. Tanner, of Philadelphia. It contains fifty-three pages and a map of the Iowa region. This work is an excellent description of that part of the original territory of Wisconsin lying west of the Mississippi river. It was this region that the book christened the "Iowa District." The map shows the route of the Dragoons and is an indispensable aid in correlating the Dragoon's track with modern Iowa and Southern Minnesota geography.

Several copies of this work are still in existence. The names and locations on the map which accompanies this book are most interesting. It should be remembered that the map was drawn before any government surveys were made, and there are naturally many minor inaccuracies. But it is remarkable, that although the Dragoons who came in 1835 were probably the first official explorers of this locality, nevertheless many lakes and rivers not in the direct line of Lea's march appear on the map accurately and bearing the names which they still retain, thus indicating, as before stated, that the previous map, that of 1832, which Lea carried, must have designated several of the leading geographical features of this locality, although we have no records of visits to this region before that time.

Bear lake appears as Trail lake, and out of it flows a stream designated as Lime creek, a name which has been retained to the present time. Albert Lea lake appears as Fox lake, and out of it flows a creek set down as Shell Rock river, a designation given by Lea when he crossed it in Iowa and which it still bears. Chapeau lake is the present White lake. Council lake as drawn on the map is probable the present Minnesota lake. The Red Cedar appears on the map as the Iowa river, although in the descriptive matter in the book, it is mentioned that the name Red Cedar had already been given to the branch which still bears that designation. Root river also appears with its present name. The Big Springs mentioned are probably at Decorah, Ia. Many other interesting physical features also appear on this priceless map.

Martin V. Kellar who is familiar with the topography of Freeborn county in the earliest days of settlement, has made a careful study of all the material available in regard to Lea's trip through this vicinity, and as the result of his examination of the route as laid out by Lea in his own maps and in his writings has arrived at the following conclusions:

The command entered Freeborn county, Wednesday, July 29, 1835, near section 12, Moscow township. After following a westward course some few miles, they encountered what was then Rice lake marsh. That season being a wet one, the marsh had



the appearance of being a great lake, Geneva lake doubtless having the appearance of being a part of the same body. The fact that this marsh was diminished in the following years accounts for the fact that investigators in the pre-territorial days told Lea that no such lake as he described was in existence. This Rice lake marsh, or "lake," as it then appeared, the command kept at their right, and skirted the east edge, turning southward and following a southwestwardly course through Moscow township, probably leaving the township somewhere in section thirty. Then they pursued a westwardly course through the southern part of Riceland township, and camped for the night about a mile and a half north of Hayward village.

The next day, Thursday, July 30, they followed a southwestwardly course until reaching the east arm of Lake Albert Lea. From this point they took a westward course, following practically the present line of the Austin road, so called, passing through what is now New Denmark, a suburb of the city of Albert Lea, keeping at their left the marsh which is now Fountain lake, and passing Bancroft creek at about the place where the bridge is now located. There they entered the beautiful tract of land which they named Paradise Prairie, but which is now known as Itasca Prairie. Turning southwestwardly they crossed the little creek which now connects School Section lake and Fountain lake, the crossing being made near where the lower railroad bridge of the M. & St. L. spans that creek, in section six, Albert Lea township. Thence they continued westward again, and stopped an hour at noon on the elevated land near the north shore of White's lake. This point is very high and answers the descriptions given in Lea's writings of the north shore of the body of water which he named Chapeau, now known as White's lake. Still continuing southwestwardly, they camped for the night near section nineteen, in Pickerel Lake township. The next day, July 31, the journey was continued, the route leaving the county near the corners of Alden and Mansfield townships.

In a letter from Corsicana, Tex., June 7, 1877, Lea wrote to the editor of the Freeborn county "Standard" as follows:

"June 7, 1835, a detachment of the 1st Regiment U. S. Dragoons left their winter quarters at the head of the lower rapids of the Mississippi (where now stands the village of Montrose), under orders to show themselves to the Sioux Indians in the region west of Lake Pepin.

"After organization at Jefferson Branch, twelve miles below St. Louis the whole regiment under Colonel Dodge, who afterward was senator from Wisconsin, made a campaign to the Pawnee towns on the upper Red river in the summer of 1834, and in the autumn returned to Fort Gibson, where the command was divided,



headquarters going to Fort Leavenworth, and three companies, under Lieut.-Col. S. W. Kearney, going to some log huts prepared for them on the west bank of the Mississippi, styled in order 'Fort Des Moines.' The captains of these companies were H. V. Sumner, Nathan Boone and Jesse Brown. Men and horses were in a pitiable condition on arrival. The writer joined the command about the first of November, and first entered duty with troops on actual service; and during the winter was sent to bring up the convalescents of the sick left at Fort Gibson. Recruits of men and horses made up the command so that 164 all told were mustered for the expedition, which was started as soon as the grass would feed the horses. Our outfit was meagre enough, and is noteworthy only as contrasting with the full equipment of the expeditions of latter days. Captain Sumner being absent his company was officered entirely by Second Lieut. H. S. Turner, now a respected citizen of St. Louis. Captain Boone, the youngest son of Daniel Boone, having been on detached service, had his company prepared for the campaign by the care of Lieutenant Lea, who had been especially assigned to that duty, but he took command on the march, and was especially valuable for his knowledge of woodcraft, and as guide. Captain Brown, being detached, his company was in the sole charge of Lieutenant Lea, who acted as Ordnance Officer.

"Five wagons drawn by four mules each, with pack horses, furnished us transportation, and we had some beef cattle on foot. Lieut.-Col. Kearny commanded in person, Lieut. J. H. Burgwin was surgeon. The prairie was still very wet, our teams were bad, most of our men unskilled, and we had a hard time for some weeks. But soon strawberries began to ripen, and we had them in super-abundance for several weeks, the season advancing with us in our northward march.

"Our route lay along the divide between the Mississippi and the Des Moines. The country was then wholly uninhabited, save by a few Indians. A narrow strip along the lower Iowa was opened to settlers by a treaty made at Rock Island the previous year. A few Indians joined us as hunters and interpreters. At the head of the small river that joins the Mississippi below Burlington, we saw a few buffalos, and killed one near a small lake, the head of that stream, and noted down as 'Swan Lake.' As there was no topographic officers with the command, and as the writer had been some years on duty, he undertook, without orders, to make a rude survey and sketch of the country traversed by using a pocket compass, a watch, and a sketch book, the distance being computed by time and rate of marching. Streams and places were named on this sketch, and most of them traversed still bear the names thus assigned.



“On the waters of the Iowa, we again found buffalos, killed some, and caught a calf, which ran through the column on the march, fell into a dry creek bed and was caught by the hand of one of my men. These two small herds were the only buffalos seen by our command during the whole march. Desiring to visit Wabashaw’s band, the officers directed our course toward Lake Pepin, and about the first of July we encamped on a small rivulet which empties into a river that enters the Mississippi four miles away, just below Lake Pepin. This river, from the obstructing drift in it was dubbed ‘Embarrassed River,’ in usage of French travelers with whom I had previously associated in a survey of Lake Harm. This name, I understand, has been gradually changed into ‘Zumbro,’ and the facts are cited here as a curious illustration of the changes induced in names of place, through translations and varied spellings in different languages. On this little rivulet we remained three days, and during that time our whole force of 164 men had as much speckled trout as we desired, taken from that single brook only a step wide. One of my men took 130 in four hours with an improvised line and hook.

“Early in July we moved camp to the bank of the Mississippi below the lake in sight of Wabashaw’s village, which we visited, and there found burials in elevation on trees and scaffolds. We were in view of the ‘Montaique qui Trempealeau,’ on the east side of the lake. Whilst at this camp we were aroused by a passing steamboat, a rare occurrence at that date, having aboard Maj. Gen. Robert Peterson, of Philadelphia, at whose house I had met President Jackson two years before. Here also Captain Brown joined us and took command of his company. Wabashaw’s people were scattered in hunting and fishing. But the old chief, with a few attendants, visited the commissioned officers, and expressed his gratification by an invitation to a dog feast which was declined, as were also other honors, more distinguished than delicate.

“From this camp we bore westward and leaving the high bluffs and deep ravines of the sand stone region, we soon found ourselves in that marvelously beautiful region of rolling prairie, oak woods and crystal lakes constituting the table land between the St. Peters river (now called Minnesota), and that drains outward into the Iowa and Des Moines. Entangled in these lakes and their connecting streams, we wound about confusedly, having no guide who had any knowledge of the region.

“As we marched along strung out in a column of twos, a white fox dashed through the column and the lake I was then sketching was noted as ‘Fox lake.’ We stopped for our noon rest on the high bank of an exquisitely beautiful lake; which from our point of view took the shape of the ‘Chapeau de bras’ then used in full



dress by military men; and I named it 'Lake Chapeau.' Our march was extended westward beyond the Des Moines, and down it, to Raccoon fork, whence, by order I descended the Des Moines in a canoe, with an Indian and a soldier, to its mouth to ascertain the practicability of bringing supplies up for a fort where is now the capital of Iowa. This was the only part of the reconnaissance made under orders, and my report was the basis of the measures taken by the government for the splendid improvements in the navigation of that river.

"A map of the country from the Missouri line to St. Peter, and from the Mississippi to the Missouri river was made out from such scant materials as I had including a minute plot of the wanderings made during the summer, and it was sent to the adjutant general. The next spring having resigned my commission in the army, I obtained a copy of this map, wrote out a description of the country embraced, and had it published by H. S. Tanner, of Philadelphia, under the title of 'Notes on the Iowa District of Wisconsin Territory.' The name of 'Iowa' was thus first applied to that region, and afterward adopted by Congress in organizing the 'Territory of Iowa.'

"Subsequently, the philosophical Nicollet explored the hydrographic basin of the upper Mississippi and introduced much of my map into the larger one, which he made under the authority of the war department. In 1841, we met in Washington city, being then both in the public service. He kept house with his assistants Fremont and Scamman and had his map on a large drawing table at his own house. One morning by special invitation I breakfasted with him in the same room with his map, when he showed me how he had filled it up from mine. During the meal I described the country west of Lake Pepin, especially the scene of the lake where we had spent the noon. 'Ah,' said he, 'Dat is magnifique.' And wat you call 'im? 'Lake Cheapeau,' said I. 'Ah, now, dat is not de name. It is Lake Albert Lea.' And immediately he wrote the name on the map, and so that beautiful sheet of water, and from it, the fair village, have taken the undistinguished name of the narrator."

Lea again visited Albert Lea on June 10, 1879, and in an address before the old settlers, added the following information to his previous statements: "At noon on the twenty-ninth of July, the command halted for a midday rest on the high bank of a lake, sloping down to its crystal waters. Large oak trees dotted the grassy prairie free from undergrowth. The whole scene was lovely beyond anything I have ever seen."

Later in the same speech he said: "As might well be expected, it is difficult for me to identify localities as sketched and named by me on my long and hurried march, with the same as shown



in actual shape and position by subsequent surveys. I have examined the present day maps, and compared them with Nicollet's and mine. It would appear that we moved around the large lake next east of the city on the north side, passing along the high bank of the then-narrow lake or slough now known as Fountain lake, and on the twenty-ninth of July, 1835, we rested on the north side of a very beautiful lake, some two or three miles west of the city, which I called Lake Chapeau, and to which Nicollet first applied my name as I have related. It is now known as White's lake. But Nicollet's map has my name in large letters attached to what I called Fox lake, but which you all know as Lake Albert Lea. As I have before related, the name was first set down in pencil, and I suppose that when he came to ink his map, my friend Nicollet chose to put my name to the larger body."

Lea places the date of his passing Lake Albert Lea, as July 29, 1835. D. G. Parker always insisted that the date was July 31, but a study of the journal of the trip, and an examination of the stopping places day by day, from the date of starting the trip, would indicate that the historic visit of this explorer to the north bank of White's lake was on the noon of July 30. Lea himself said that it was most difficult for him to identify exact dates and present day locations along the line of the wilderness which he so hurriedly passed.

For the sake of future historians, it should here be stated, that a published journal of Lea's march through this county, contains entries which are confusing and which do not coincide either with Lea's maps, or his writings. The journal was recently edited under the direction of the Iowa Historical Society and entitled "A Journal of the Marches by the First United States Dragoons, 1834-35," being published in the July, 1909, issue of the "Iowa Journal of History and Politics." The operations described extend over an area of five of the states of the Mississippi valley and embrace explorations and councils and treaties with the Indian tribes. The journal records the four distinct marches or campaigns in which Company I participated. Of these the fourth only is of immediate interest to the people of Freeborn county. The authorship of this journal has not yet been determined. At two different places the author has signed himself as "L," and he states that he was a member of Company I. At one time the authorship was attributed to Albert M. Lea, but internal evidence in the journal would seem to prove, however, that such is not the case, and that it was written either by an officer of lower rank or by a private.

The entry of interest to the people of Freeborn county is as follows:

"Wednesday, July 29, 1835. This morning to all appearance



we should have a good day's march, but had made but five or six miles when we perceived before us a lake stretching as far as the eye could reach, from north to south, and from one half to three miles in width. We bore to the north to try to get around it. But at this time, 12 M., we have come to an outlet on one side and on the other a marsh which is impassible. What course we shall now take is uncertain. The officers are now assembled to concert measures to get out of this difficulty. In the meantime the men are taking their rest in the shade, their horses grazing beside them. No name is mentioned by geographers for this lake. The land about here is good. Grass and herbage of all kinds in the highest natural state. Grass eight feet high. One of our Indians killed a gray eagle on the lake shore. In the afternoon passed the outlet and marched seven miles. Signs of beaver, muskrat and otter. Saw several handsome lakes and some of the most beautiful small prairies I have ever seen since I have been in the West. I have seen some romantic and handsome landscapes, but this far surpasses any country I have ever seen, both in beauty and fertility.

“Thursday, July 30. Marched only ten miles.”

A few years after this the neutral land along the northern boundary of Iowa, and the land just north of it, particularly that portion lying west of the Red Cedar, and embracing the beautiful lakes of Freeborn county, became a favorite hunting place for the officers, agents and fur traders stationed about Ft. Snelling.

A party of famous pioneer hunters visited this vicinity in 1840. In the fall of that year Henry H. Sibley, Alexander Faribault, William H. Forbes and John C. Fremont started with a party of Sioux and two Canadian voyageurs for the “Neutral Land” which the government had purchased from the Indians. Jack Fraser joined the party near the present city of Faribault. The party reached the Red Cedar river somewhere in the present Mower county. At some point on this river a camp was made, and Sibley, Fraser and two Canadians accompanied Fremont to Prairie du Chien, where Jean N. Nicollet awaited him. Leaving Fremont at that point, the four returned to the camp, being accompanied a part of the way by a hunter named Reed. Arriving in camp, they spent several days hunting to the westward, about the lakes of Freeborn county. Later they left the Sioux in camp and returned to Mendota.

In 1841 Henry M. Rice, conducting a party of trappers encamped on the lakes of this country, and lived a life of adventure, making return hunting trips here for four consecutive years. This county was the paradise of hunters, and in after life Mr. Rice affirmed that in the summer of 1842 he saw over 300

elk in one day, while making his peregrinations around these lakes, and that in 1843 he killed two of these fleet-footed animals, one morning before breakfast. This tract of country was embraced within a strip of territory, often visited by two hostile tribes of Indians, and was frequently made the scalping ground of both; nor were they particular as to whose hair was lifted, provided they could exhibit some trophy of their savage propensity. Mr. Rice, in his articles, relates of many hair-breadth escapes on the part of himself and company, during his hazardous adventures in this wild and unfrequented region.

In October, 1841, with a large company of Indians, Sibley, representing the American Fur Company, again camped near the present site of Austin, and there spent the winter, hunting to the southward in Iowa and to the westward in Freeborn county. The hunt was successful. Over 2,000 deer, fifty elk, as many bears, five panthers and a few buffalo skins were obtained. The fur company sold for \$20 guns that cost \$6 in St. Louis. They got pay not in money but in furs, at their own price. This is a specimen of the profits of the fur trade. The Indians broke camp and returned to Mendota in March, before the spring thaw rendered the sloughs and streams impassible.

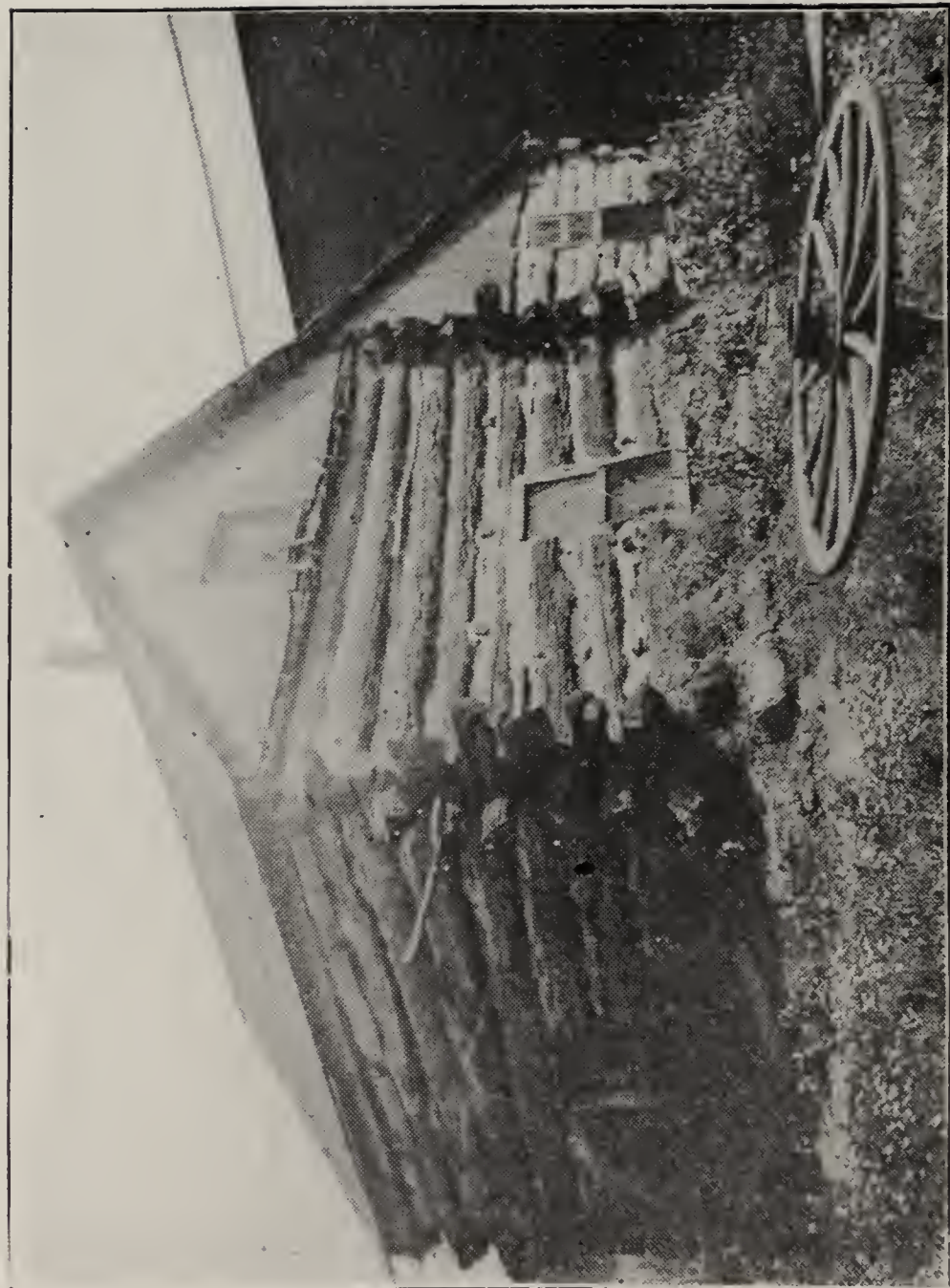
From 1849 to 1852 the northern boundary of Iowa was surveyed, the Freeborn county portion of the line being surveyed by a party under Capt. Andrew Talcott, in 1852.

The First Standard Parallel, which forms the northern boundary of Freeborn county, was surveyed in 1853 by E. S. Morris.

The townships and sections of the county were surveyed in 1854. A copy of these surveys on file at the court house was attested in 1871 by C. T. Brown, surveyor general. Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 19, were surveyed by William J. Anderson. Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 20, were surveyed by Ed Fitzgerald. Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, range 21, were surveyed by Hardin Nowlin, as were also townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, in range 22. Township 101, range 23, was surveyed by John O. Brunius and townships 102, 103 and 104, range 23, by T. Crawford. All these gentlemen were deputy surveyors.







FIRST HOUSE IN FREEBORN COUNTY



## CHAPTER VI.

### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

**Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen Arrives and Settles in Shell Rock Township—Other Pioneers of 1855—Geneva Lake and Valley of the Turtle—Lake Albert Lea—Valley of the Shell Rock—Freeborn Lake—Albert Lea Started—Influx of Settlement Begins—Copies from the Land Office Records.**

The first settler within the present limits of Freeborn county, of whom any record has been left, was Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen, better known to the early settlers as Ole Gulbrandson. The old pioneers are generally agreed that this settler came with his family and settled in section 33, town of Shell Rock, in the spring of 1853.

In 1854 the county was surveyed and the township, range and section lines staked. The spring of 1855 dawned with but one settler within the present limits of Freeborn county. A. D. Pinkerton, an early Minnesota pioneer, and hunter, accompanied the 1854 surveyors; and in the spring of 1855, he made the statement on the streets of Austin, that from a point a few miles west of the Cedar to a point a few miles east of the Blue Earth, and from the Iowa line, thirty miles north, there was but one settler; and that one man named Gulbrandson, who had settled on a section which was the first section north of the Iowa state line. Very early in the spring of 1855, Milton Morey settled on the shores of Lake Geneva, and then went back east after his family.

On his way east he met Nathaniel Hunt, who in May of that year came into Moscow township from Austin, and settled in the timbered valley of Turtle creek. The day after he settled, there arrived a party of pioneers consisting of Robert Speer with wife and three children, Thomas R. Morgan with his young brother, David, and Thomas Ellis with a wife and two children. This party also settled in Moscow and the little colony was joined in July by James Bush with wife and two children, John G. Dunning and wife and James Dunning with wife and a child. Seymour Saxton came to Moscow this year and stayed for a time, as did Hanibal Bickford, who later located in the north-western part of the county. In July Evan Morgan, father of Thomas R. Morgan, came and settled in the same locality, bring-

ing his wife and two of his sons. Thomas R. Morgan, one of these settlers of 1855, is still living.

About the same time, John T. Asher settled in London Township, and the Carpenters, Bullocks and Budlongs come to the oak openings in this town and in Oakland. It should be explained that the Moscow, Oakland and London settlers came here by way of the Cedar river, and settled in the country tributary to Austin, which even at that early day gave promise of being a flourishing hamlet.

It has been said that William and James Madison Rice visited Freeborn county in 1854. In the spring of 1855 they settled near Glenville, bringing with them Gardner Cottrell, George Gardner and Charles T. Knapp, as well as Betsey Knapp, who later married James Madison Rice. In 1855, William and Oliver Andrews also settled near Glenville, and some time during the year a few others were in that vicinity.

In June, Lorenzo Merry arrived in Albert Lea; and a month later came George S. Ruble, who in the fall brought his family and several workmen. Charles C. Colby with some of his sisters and Bethuel Lilly and wife also settled near Albert Lea that year.

It has also been alleged that during this year John Stanley settled in what is now Shell Rock township; Jacob Hostetter, John Oldinghouse (Olenhouse) and Oliver Diamond, in Freeman township; and A. D. Pinkham and Charles and William Wilder (Weilder) on Pickerel lake. It is also possible that Robert H. Miller, Hanibal Bickford, Elias Stanton and Theodore L. Carlson were on Freeborn lake in Carlston during this year. There was also a Norwegian settlement in Bancroft and at Red Oak Grove.

This list probably includes all of the settlers of 1855. Aside from the habitations which these scattering pioneers erected, the country remained practically an unbroken wilderness until the spring of 1856, in which year the real influx of settlement began.

### LAND OFFICE RECORDS.

The land office records, giving the date upon which title was secured from the government, to every piece of land in Freeborn county, are an invaluable aid in ascertaining the names which were connected with the history of the county in the early days. All who secured land by pre-emption were compelled, supported by a witness, to swear to the government officials that they had been on their land a certain time, that they had erected a habitation, and that they had broken a certain amount of land. In many instances deliberate fraud was used, and some of the names which appear as early pre-emptors were those of speculators or money lenders who never saw Freeborn county. In other



cases transients, humble employees or even hunters were engaged at a miserably small stipend to make some sort of pretense of occupying land, and then turn over their title to those who hired them. Some of those who honestly proved up, left in a short time, and made no impress on the life of the community. Many of the names which appear on these land office records, however, are those of genuine pioneers who remained and took a part in the progress of the county, some of their land remaining in the possession of themselves or their families to the present day.

The records are becoming faint, and the writing is often difficult to decipher. Then, too, the names are often carelessly and incorrectly recorded. In the following list the spelling of the records is faithfully followed, even though it sometimes differs from the present day rendering of the various names. In the list of the very earliest pre-emptors, which is herewith appended, the number of the section, the name of the claimant and the date the title to the land was secured are given in consecutive order under each township. In case the same person proved up on land in two different sections, the first section recorded is here given.

The land office was located at Brownsville, Minn., until in 1856, when it was removed to Chatfield, Fillmore county, this state.

**London.** Township 101, range 19. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were:

2—Josiah Haskill, September 17. 3—Henry M. Faville, September 11. 4—Geo. B. Adkins, September 27. 8—Thomas H. Budlong, September 11; William A. Pearce, August 15. 9—Brock Woodruff, August 22. 10—Edward E. Budlong, September 11; William Clatworthy, August 15. 11—Daniel D. Mack, September 17. 12—Charles Shepard, November 17; Erastus Andrews, September 13. 13—John C. Hutchinson, December 12. 14—Milton Johnson, December 12; Joseph A. Johnson, December 12. 24—Sarah B. Hutchinson, September 29; John C. Hutchinson, December 12. 25—Philip A. Strong, November 4. 26—Charles B. Roberts, November 4. 35—Geo. H. Bemis, November 4.

**Shell Rock.** Township 101, range 20. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1855. Those who secured land that year were: 4—Clark Andrews, November 3. 5—Wm. Andrews, November 3. Those who secured land in 1856 were: 5—Elijah Young, Jr., November 14; Robert Bradley, December 23; Geo. Gardner, June 16. 6—Alfred Norst, October 17; James Andrews, July 26; Almon H. Cottrell, November 14; Elias Cady, August 15; John W. Smith, November 1. 7—Sanders Brannan, November 15; Anthony Bower, August 15; Edward P. Skinner, September



11. 9—Geo. Wilson, October 18; Danford Ayers, July 19. 17—Elihu C. Trow, August 25.

**Freeman** Township 101, range 21. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Jacob Hostetter, Jr., June 19; John W. Smith, November 1. 12—Sanders Brannan, September 16. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 5—Sylvester S. Hill, October 2. 6—Kaleb Hull, October 17. 7—Willard Farnham, November 23. 9—Chas. Bessinger, August 10. 11—Reuben Wilsey, May 16; Jesse V. Robbins, November 17; Irwin Seward, December 5. 12—Joseph Marvin, July 16; Henry Thurston, September 7; Albert K. Marvin, July 16. 18—Moses Kingelsmith, November 23. 22—Wm. Edwards, May 27. 23—Henry W. Chatfield, October 20. 24—Louis Olinghouse, July 16; Oliver Diamond, September 7.

**Nunda** Township 101, range 22. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Simon Drew, October 14. 12—Finley Stockdale, September 12. 21—Henry J. Ellsworth, October 3; Anthony Bright, October 3. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 1—John Banning, October 20. 2—Chas. Grimm, May 17. 5—James M. Cotrell, October 19. 11—Wm. Seneve, November 3. 12—Louis Proebsting, May 16. 15—Almira Chapell, October 12; Jacob Hunt, October 12. 22—Stephen Baker, October 12. 24—John Honan, November 21. 25—Martin Forbes, November 21; Patrick Duffy, November 16. 26—John Roach, September 12. 28—Marvin Foster, October 19; Nels Bergeson, July 18. 32—Henry G. Emmons, July 14. 33—Erick Erickson, July 14. 34—Levi Robinson, September 28. 35—James Carroll, September 28.

**Mansfield** Township 101, range 23. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1860. Those who proved up that year were: 8—Henry Tunell, October 23; John Tunell, October 23. 15—Nichols Stenaldson, October 25. The one who secured land in 1861 was, 7—Oliver M. Cross, September 27. The one who secured land in 1862 was, 2—John Buchanan, June 25. The one who secured land in 1863 was, 10—Henry Smith, May 26. It should be understood that the settlements were made in this town some time before any claims were proved up.

**Oakland** Township 102, range 19. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Daniel Ostrander, October 10. 2—Wm. P. Pelton, September 8. 3—John Lyhttey, Jr., December 13. 4—Joel L. Bullock, September 24; Mathew M. Hancraft, September 24. 5—Adam Potter, September 24. 10—John McCarty, November 8. 17—Jerry N. Cady, October 30. 19—James P. Cady, October 30; Orlando Webster, October 30; Geo. McNoal, September 30. 20—



John Geo. Grittenburg, October 30. 30—Geo. N. Cram, August 15. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 1—Antwine Robert, July 15. 2—John M. Patterson, May 4. 5—Oscar Miller, December 7. 11—James K. Hotchkiss, September 17. 12—Mitchell Clark, October 21; Emory W. Fenton, September 4; Herman Tubbs, August 29. 14—Geo. Johnson, September 4. 15—Reuben Babcock, November 28. 17—Henry C. Potter, October 16. 18—Robert George, October 16. 20—Francis McCabe March 11. 22—John Johnson, October 21. 24—John Runeals, September 30. 32—Chester D. Waterman, March 17.

**Hayward Township** 102, range 20. The first claim in this township was proven up in 1855. The one who took land that year was, 20—Samuel H. Conley, August 31. Those who secured land in 1856 were: 6—Geo. A. Watrous, November 26. 8—Michael Fatter, September 26. 18—James Farmer, December 9. 19—Wm. Rice, July 8; Geo. Spoon, September 23. 20—Asher A. Akiees, September 26. 29—John Gulbrandson, September 29; Oliver Andrews, June 16. 30—Horatio D. Brown, October 7. 31—Levi Leonard, July 19; Timothy Ide, November 22; Charles T. Knapp, October 17. 32—Walter Stott November 8; Alfred T. Leonard, June 16; Mary E. Leonard, June 16.

**Albert Lea Township** 102, range 21. The first claims in this township was proven up in 1856. The ones who took land that year were: 1—Henry Wheeler, November 18. 2—Geo. W. Clemmen, August 6; Horatio Allen, September 26. 3—Hugh Clark, November 21. 4—Addison Caswell, November 8; Soren G. Cutler, April 30. 5—Geo. W. Baily, November 11; Daniel Hurd, November 11. 6—Gilbert Tolles, June 18; Henry Dayton, June 18. 7—Bradford Blackmer, November 11; Jared J. Dart, July 12; Asa W. White, July 12; Haalvor Olson, December 22. 8—Charles Sweatt, August 6; Lorenzo Merry, August 6; Daniel E. Maxson, May 10; Wm. Morin, November 18. 9—Geo. S. Ruble, March 17. 10—Geo. Patterson, July 2; John B. Lennox, November 11. 13—James Farmer, December 9. 17—Christian Fleck, March 4; Wm. Keller, November 18. 21—David H. Cheney, January 6. 23—Henry Badger, July 23. 24—Samuel M. Thompson, July 8. 25—Wiffing Wadsworth, July 23; W. H. Welch, August 28. 26—Flavel B. Shaw, August 28; Reuben Hill, October 27.

**Pickerel Lake Township** 102, range 22. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Christian J. Steves, December 23. 12—Chas. W. Wilder, May 3; John H. Snyder, September 26; Jared T. Dart, July 12; Asa W. White, July 12. 13—Halvor Olson, December 22; Ralph White, November 28. 24—Samuel G. Bentley, October 28. 25—Chas. F. Whipple, November 5; Johannis Messikower,



November 5. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 1—Julius E. Wood, November 19. 2—Geo. Holbrook, November 6; Henry Chambers, August 29; Wm. C. Lamore, October 16; Warren Williams, August 29. 3—Jonathan O. Whipple, October 16. 4—Chas. R. White, August 29. 5—Samuel Palmeter, October 9; John Ramsey, October 9. 9—Homer T. Wetherly, October 24; Samuel W. Cutter, November 17; Samuel C. Wood, October 17; Joseph H. Wood, October 17. 10—Foster H. Powers, August 29; Henry C. Stewart, October 17; Thomas F. Wetherly, October 24; Daniel J. Humphry, August 29. 11—Wm. C. Lamore, October 16. 12—Benjamin F. Lowry, July 22; Geo. Haven, March 4. 23—Paul Carroll, August 31. 24—Samuel Eaton, November 4. 26—Asa H. Bradley, November 5. 27—Wm. Schnieder, November 4; David Pierce November 5.

**Alden** Township 102, range 23. The first claim in this township was proved up in 1860. The one who secured land that year was, 1—James Rundel, October 20. Those who secured land in 1861 were: 1—John Houck, November 8. 2—Jonathan Russell, June 1; Samuel Isaac, June 1. 3—W. M. L. Gray, July 20; Augustus Armstrong, September 6; Henry S. Griswold, June 24. 4—Wm. D. Clark, June 21. 11—Harrison Sweet, June 1. It should be understood that this town received settlers some time before any claims were proved up.

**Moscow** Township 103, range 19. The first claim in this township was proved up in 1855. The one who secured land that year was, 17—Sylvester Smith, November 23. Those who secured land in 1856 were: 7—Daniel Tubbs, March 27. 8—Geo. W. Dearmin, June 13; Jerome Gates, March 21. 11—Amanda M. Hale, November 26. 12—Wm. Litchfield, December 17; Isaiah Stokes, December 17. 13—James E. R. Gould, January 12; Alexander M. Fleck, September 22. 17—Thos. R. Morgan, March 10; Judson A. Laraber, September 1; Geo. Durgea, September 8. 19—Seymour Saxton, May 7; Wm. F. Buttler, June 21. 20—Herman S. Libby, August 20. 21—Robert Wilcox, March 10; Myron Blackman, October 30. 22—John G. Dunning, March 31; Robert Speer, October 30. 23—Henry Fero, July 12. 24—Cordilla W. Filet, September 27. 25—Josiah W. Hardy, November 5. 26—Jared Webster, November 5; Cyrus Waterman, June 13; Wm. W. Patterson, November 10. 27—James Bush, September 13. 28—Thomas Ellis, March 10; Rufus K. Crum, November 19. 29—Benjamin F. Martin, November 4. 32—Geo. Ellis, November 12. 34—Harvey B. Earl, December 13; Schuyler Speer, November 4.

**Riceland** Township 103, range 20. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 12—Victor B. Loser, May 7; Amy Beardsley,



May 2. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 1—Garrett Sienan, May 26. 7—Geo. Roberts, October 19; Reuben Wakefield, October 19; Thomas P. Wright, September 2. 15—Samuel A. Beardsley, May 2. 22—Geo. P. Brackett, September 2. 25—Edwin A. Davis, October 23; Samuel G. Lowry, December 15. 31—Wm. R. Gause, October 1.

**Bancroft** Township 103, range 21. The first claim in this township was proved up in 1855. The one who took land that year was, 3—Chauncy P. Richardson, November 18. Those who secured land in 1856 were: 1—Charles Fitch, November 10. 8—Adolphus C. Hall, November 8. 26—John Q. Fitzgerald, July 29. 33—Addison Caswell, November 8. 35—Jesse W. Bogart, August 5.

**Manchester** Township 103, range 22. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 22—Ole Olson, October 17. 28—Samuel Wilford, November 18. 29—David Irons, June 14. 32—Calvin Humphrys, November 18. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 14—Peter Olson, June 16. 17—Nels Nelson, May 30. 23—Jacob Baker, September 30; Horatio G. Robbins, June 19; Benjamin F. Skiff, August 19. 24—Francis B. Chute, October 23. 25—Francis A. Merrill, October 23; Geo. W. Camp, October 23; Joseph Steward, August 19; David S. Brottan September 30; Henry S. Hudson, June 19. 26—Geo. Buswell, January 27; Geo. L. Crane, October 8; Robert Anderson, October 8; Sias Geo. Sherbourne, November 26. 29—Joseph Spangler, October 5. 30—Jason C. Easton, October 5. 33—Frederick Ewald, September 17.

**Carlston** Township 103, range 23. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Nicholas Fesch, Jr., July 22. 2—Andrew Stanton, June 13. 3—David F. Miser, July 26. 10—Robert H. Miller, April 21; Carl A. Landgren, September 25. 11—Hanibal Bickford, April 24. 13—Theodore Ash, July 22. 14—David M. Elliot, September 4; Elias Stanton, June 14. 15—Henry Miller, September 25. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 4—Levi W. Gillmore, October 27. 13—Theodore Rozeien, August 20. 14—Ludwick T. Carlson, June 25. 23—Alex Wike, November 27.

**Newry** Township 104, range 19. The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 4—Oliver R. Austin, September 26. 5—Wm. R. Luicon, September 26. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 1—Henry C. Paul, August 1; Sidney McClure, June 22; Andrew Hartenbower, August 11; Richard Edwards, August 11. 17—John Brannan, May 26; 18—Dennis Cochlin, October 2. 30—Mary Gardner, October 26. 31—Pascal P. Stiles, February 10.

**Geneva** Township 104, range 20. The first claims in this



township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 6—Charles H. McAntyre, October 18. 7—Clark D. Dalrymple, September 25; John Heath, August 28. 8—Eliab Eggleston, October 7. 9—Oliver Decker, December 29. 12—Alexander Schute, November 24. 13—Thomas Cashman, September 27. 15—Nathaniel A. Hunt, December 29. 26—Samuel Woodworth, December 29. 29—Welcome S. Bacon, August 18. 30—Horace Willard, September 27. 35—Beach J. Wheeler, December 29. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 4—Wm. Hyke, November 10. 5—Philander Kimball, September 18. 6—Stephanus Inglass, November 2. 8—Elmore Eggleston, October 2; Chas. M. Eggleston, October 27; David Depue, July 22. 11—Thomas Hill, November 3. 14—Geo. Partice, October 5. 15—Abram W. Brown, August 18. 21—Stephen Y. Brown, August 28. 18—Walrath Soyd, August 28. 23—Luther Himes, October 1. 24—John Cashman, October 26.

**Bath Township 104, range 21.** The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 1—Geo. L. Garnish, September 25. 10—Edwin C. Stacy, December 30. 12—Henry M. Palmer; Noyes S. Palmer, November 10. 13—Benjamin S. Whales, November 20. 25—Alfred B. Webber, November 6; Alex Haskins, November 26. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 3—Isaac M. Stackhouse, August 21. 4—Chas. Wages, November 25. 8—Geo. Richardson, August 28. 9—Eugene G. Olmsted, October 3. 10—Dennis Thompson, August 12; David Minen, May 30; Patrick Reddington, October 30. 12—Thomas Thaxton, September 12; Chas Gahagan, January 2; Benj. R. Thaxton, September 12. 13—Reinald H. Fowler, August 14. 14—Nathaniel Dehart, July 22; Philip Barton, September 9. 18—Josiah Goodwin, November 10. 19—James Sheehan, November 4. 30—Madison L. Fitch, October 14. 35—Chas. L. Eyck, June 18.

**Hartland Township 104, range 22.** The first claims in this township were proved up in 1856. Those who secured land that year were: 13—John Mamelton, September 26. 23—John Farmer, June 26; George Brown, September 13. 24—Charles Filkins, September 15; Augustus B. Brands, December 30; James Brown, September 13. 25—David Harrington, September 13.

**Freeborn Township 104, range 23.** The first claim in this township was proved up in 1855. The one who secured land that year was, 22—Nelson Everst, January 9. The one who secured land in 1856 was, 26—James Montgomery, January 24. Those who secured land in 1857 were: 25—Chas. D. Giddings, July 22. 26—Lafayette Scott, July 22. 33—Elon A. Douglass, September 8; Geo. Culbert, October 27. 34—Hannah Grijnon, August 31. 35—Thos. J. Scott, March 12.



Martin V. Kellar says: One of the serious drawbacks towards the development of Freeborn county, a curse met with in all parts of the west, was the speculator. He came, not as an actual settler, but for the specific object of proving up on a piece of land at all hazards, and selling it for what he could get or holding it for the future development of the country to bring him in a good price. A perusal of the above list of persons 'proving up,' will be a revelation to all the pioneers in our several townships. Many of these names are here seen for the first time. That fraud of the deepest dye was practiced is evident, as the law requires that the person proving up should make oath himself and be supported by one witness, that he was a bona fide settler on said land, that he had thereon a house, that he had not less than half an acre under cultivation, and that he had not sold nor bargained his claim away. As a matter of fact, many of them at the time they proved up, were then on their way out of the county, with their lands already deeded to some land shark or money lender.

Some broke the required half acre, and erected what they called a house, represented only by four posts, placed in the ground, with a little brush or hay for a roof, thus making what they purported to be a "home." A beautiful monument in Albert Lea cemetery stands on the site of such a home erected by a merchant of Mitchell, Iowa. Before he could prove up, the claim was jumped in 1856, by Rev. Isaac McReynolds, who lived on the claim for fifty years.

## CHAPTER VII.

### PIONEER TIMES.

**Early Settlement—First Village in the County—Blue Earth Road—The Pioneer Home—Pioneer Women—First Religious Meetings—First Events—By Martin V. Kellar.**

The monotony of life is often pleasantly broken by visions of early days. We see before us our lakes, far, far more beautiful than today. Their waters are clear and deep, free of weeds or rushes, with well defined shores. They are covered with thousands of wild geese and ducks and occasionally a flock of graceful white swans have alighted for food and rest on their long flight to their nesting place in the distant north. We see the Indian hunter as he glides stealthily along their borders in quest of food for the family in his nearby wigwam.

We climb the highest hill that we may obtain a better view of the surrounding country, only to see nature untouched—not a house, barn or field do we see—only the scattering burr-oak trees as far as the eye can reach. We look long for beautiful groves of young timber but we see them not—they are something of more recent years. We see the covered wagon drawn by the sleepy old oxen. They are meandering around the impassable sloughs and over the higher lands, followed by the loose cattle driven by the noble wife and children. They are the ones that shall make Freeborn county a garden of beauty—and the home of refinement and luxury.

We awake from our reverie to behold our cities and villages, our beautiful homes, schools, churches, railroads, and all the appliances of modern civilization, and we ask, “Is such a change possible in one short lifetime? Surely we have lived in two worlds!”

The spring of 1853 dawns on Freeborn county in all her solitude, but it is the beginning of a new era. Never before has civilized man disturbed her quietude, but a change must now come. Her sparkling lakes shall be turned into power for the factory, and her beautiful hills into fields of ripening grain, while the Indian must give way to enlightenment and civilization.

In July of this year a Norwegian of Rock County, Wisconsin, Ole C. Livdahlen, known to the first settlers as Ole Gulbrandson,



with his family took up his home one-half mile southeast of Gordonsville, in Shell Rock township, he being the first white settler in Freeborn county. He remained until the spring of 1856, when he sold out to William Beighley and left the country. There was born in this house in the early spring of 1854 a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Gulbrandson, this being the first white child born in the county. As a souvenir of the early days, this old log house has been removed to the county fair grounds in order that future generations may see a typical pioneer home.

In the early spring of 1855 Jacob LyBrand and Samuel M. Thompson settled at St. Nicholas and William Rice, at Glenville.

June first of this year finds Lorenzo Merry building his cabin at the southeast corner of Washington and Water streets, Albert Lea; and one month later Geo. S. Ruble of Beloit, Wis., is looking over the country for water power for a saw mill, finally decides to locate also at Albert Lea, and during the autumn arrives with his family, building his cabin at 522 Bridge street. Chas. C. Colby, a young man, appeared during the year and laid claim to lands in section 6, Albert Lea township. He was accompanied by Bethuel Lilly and wife and one sister. Two other sisters came in the fall. The dreariness of life to these young people during the hard winter of 1855-56 can scarcely be appreciated today, as there were only four other houses within a radius of nine miles.

We find in June of this year several families settled in the vicinity of Glenville, among them George Gardner, Charles T. Knapp, William Andrews, Gardner Cottrell and Oliver Andrews.

During the season of 1856, a goodly number of settlers arrived, so it was possible to organize the county of Freeborn, which was accomplished on March 3, 1857.

### THE FIRST VILLAGE IN THE COUNTY.

**St. Nicholas.** In the early spring of 1855, Jacob LyBrand and Samuel M. Thompson, from near Green Bay, Wis., located on the northeast quarter section 26, Albert Lea township, and proceeded to lay out on the banks of Lake Albert Lea the prospective county seat, the village of St. Nicholas. Its location was most beautiful, as the lake at that point was the broadest sheet of water in the county with a fine, gravelly beach, and the distant shore lined with large timber. They at once erected a large log building and opened up a splendid stock of goods of all descriptions. There seemed to be nothing wanted by the settler but what they had on hand, and their prices very reasonable, taking into consideration our distance from market. They at once began their campaign for the county seat and put forth every honorable means to secure it, but their failure is fully recorded on another page.



**BLUE EARTH ROAD.**

On the first settlement of the county there was but one general highway, known as the Blue Earth road, that entered the county on section 34, London township, running northwest past Myrtle, Glenville and St. Nicholas, leaving Albert Lea one mile to the east, past Armstrong, but was lost as a thoroughfare by its numerous branches near Alden. Much of its way was over an old Indian trail, and it was much used with but little change until after the Rebellion.

A great majority of our settlers passed over this route, tired out by their long, tedious journey, longing to reach their prospective homes. It was also our main highway to our market at McGregor, Ia., for years, and our only route to mill at Decorah and Mitchell, Ia. Prior to 1857 but few emigrants had arrived, but the spring of that year a rush began and seldom would one be out of sight on this road of the "prairie schooner," drawn by ox-teams, loaded with every conceivable article of plunder, even to a coop of poultry, or pigs, fastened on the rear endgate of every wagon.

The year 1858, however, found a halt, as the hard times of that period were now felt all over the West in its severity, especially so in Freeborn county, as not a dollar's worth of produce had ever been shipped out of the county to market. The year before had been one of excessive rains, and only a little corn and potatoes had been raised; farming had only begun that year and the hardships of our pioneers can be but little appreciated today. A description of this period is found in the following extract from the pen of M. V. Kellar, which appeared in the "Albert Lea Standard" in 1908: "The year 'Eighteen Hundred and Johnnie Cake' (1858-9) will ever be remembered by the old settlers—they all agree it was not a pleasant period. Our only bread was made from corn, cracked on a poor feed mill run in connection with Ruble's sawmill and patronized by the whole county. We had no money, no flour, tea, coffee, sugar and even salt became so scarce that our neighbors had to stop salting down the fish which at the time filled our lakes. Many even had to stop using them as food for want of lard to cook them. We shall never forget our first salaratus biscuit (1859)—it was the most delicious morsel we have ever tasted. The tender leaves of the redroot were used for tea, while corn, wheat, rye, acorns and even beets were roasted and ground for coffee. Most of our farmers looked like they were from Stillwater, clad in their frocks and overalls made of striped bed ticking and some made their shoes out of old boot-tops. But people who pass through such a school are better prepared for life's battles."



### THE PIONEER HOME.

The first proposition that met the pioneer on his arrival was a dwelling, which was hastily erected out of rough logs with but one room not over sixteen feet square. This one room answered in most cases for years as kitchen, pantry, parlor, bed and sitting room, until prosperity smiled on him sufficiently to build a new and commodious home. The reader should not infer that there was no happiness in such a home. Far from such an idea.

In recent years there was enacted a beautiful tableau that fully illustrates such a home. In 1857 there located in our midst a family from Wisconsin. Time only allowed the hasty construction of the rudest cabin which for years was the ideal home. By years of toil and saving, in later years a beautiful and commodious dwelling was built but a few rods from the old cabin.

The first Sabbath after moving into the new home, the husband returns to find the good wife gone. Hunting, he soon finds her seated in her old rocking chair in the old Territorial Cabin. Doubtless she was living over again the happy days spent in that old home. Above the roaring blizzards and the howling wolf, she hears the happy voices of her young children at play, all now married and gone. She hears the crow of the prairie-chicken and the call of the wild goose, while the crack of the Indian's rifle she hears from the nearby lake.

She sees the beautiful Indian summer as of old, and hears the sweet tinkle of the old cow bell that is sweet music to her ear today. She visits with kind neighbors, many of whom have passed to that Undiscovered Country, and awakening from her revery, finds only her husband is with her in the dear old cabin. Think you she would give that old cabin, with all its dear memories, for an English castle? Never!!

While the pioneers met with many hardships and discouragements, they could see the silvery lining on every cloud. They were not looking for the Almighty Dollar, as today, but content to make a living as best they could. They were a kindhearted, social, generous, accommodating folk, every man your neighbor, and the latchstring hung out at every door as a glad welcome to every stranger. From your modern farm mansion or the palace of your city you must come today to this old pioneer cabin to learn true happiness and contentment, and the enjoyment of those social and neighborly qualities so prominent in Freeborn county fifty years ago, but today found only in history.

### PIONEER WOMEN.

In writing up the events of over half a century ago there is one who is so apt to be forgotten. "The Pioneer Woman."



She comes not in a palatial railway coach or the family automobile, but was seen at the rear of every emigrant train on the old Blue Earth road, cheerfully driving the loose stock, clad in coarse and oftentimes shabby attire. No woman walked from the plains of Sinai with more courage, or stronger faith of a Promised Land, than this noble woman who comes to help lay the corner-stone of civilization and refinement in Freeborn county. She little knew the trials and hardships before her, or the dangers of a frontier life. She had given up home, relatives, friends, church and society, all so dear to woman, to begin a life of toil and anxiety, buoyed on with the hope of a home of refinement, beauty and plenty, but, alas! to close her earthly labors when just in view of her long-sought prize. No painted word or gilded sentence will ever do adequate justice to this noble heroine, but her memory should be indelibly stamped on the brightest page of our local history.

### **FIRST RELIGIOUS MEETINGS.**

There is one, though never a resident of the county, that should be especially mentioned, Rev. Sylvester N. Phelps, of the Methodist Episcopal church, for it was he who first carried the lamp of Christianity within her borders. This good man first saw the light of day in Potter county, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1833. At the age of twenty-two he was sent by his church to open up the work of this denomination on the headwaters of the Cedar river and was temporarily located at Austin, then a village just rising from the prairie. He first entered the county and preached the first Gospel sermon ever heard within our borders at the home of Rufus K. Crum, on Section twenty-eight, Moscow township, August 31, 1856. He continued to hold services in that vicinity until July, 1857, and organized the first Christian church within the county, with George Bolton as class leader and Alvia B. Sizer, steward.

On May 3, 1857, he appeared at the home of William Kellar, one mile southeast of the Court House, and preached the first Gospel sermon ever heard in the vicinity of Albert Lea. On the following Sabbath, at 10 a. m., he preached at the home of Walter Stott, two miles northeast of Glenville, and at the home of George S. Ruble, 522 Bridge street, Albert Lea, at 2 p. m. the same day. This event was duly celebrated by the First Methodist Episcopal church of Albert Lea on May 10, 1907, it being the fiftieth anniversary of this occasion. Services were held at 2 p. m. on the old Kellar place, and at the church in the city in the evening, when Mr. Phelps was present, preaching a beautiful sermon from the same text he had used just fifty years before.



In 1862 he enlisted in Company H, Sixth Minnesota Vol. Inf., but was discharged the following May for disabilities. He was chaplain of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1871. He was superannuated by his church some years ago, and closed his earthly labors at Windom, Minn., December 9, 1909. A beautiful picture of this faithful disciple of Wesley may be seen at the city library, Albert Lea.

### FIRST EVENTS.

The first settlement was made by Ole C. Livdahlen, known to the first settlers as Ole Gulbrandson, one-half mile southeast of Gordonsville, in June, 1853.

The first white child born in the county was a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Ole C. Livdahlen in the spring of 1854.

The first death in the county was that of Mrs. William Andrews, two miles northeast of Glenville, September, 1855.

The first village platted was Saint Nicholas, on the northeast quarter of Section twenty-six, Albert Lea township, by Jacob Ly Brand and Samuel M. Thompson, in May, 1855.

The first mill was a sawmill operated by water power, built by George St. Ruble at 502 Bridge street, Albert Lea, and began sawing lumber October, 1856. In 1859 a small flouring mill was added to the plant. In the spring of 1861 high water undermined the plant, which was damaged beyond repairs.

The first postoffice in the county was at St. Nicholas, with Jacob Ly Brand as postmaster. It was established in 1855 and discontinued in 1858.

The first hotel in the county was opened in 1856 at St. Nicholas by William Rice, proprietor.

The first blacksmith shop in the county was opened at St. Nicholas by William Eddy in 1856. The first blacksmith shop in the city of Albert Lea was opened at 425 Bridge street by David Crowfoot in the spring of 1857. He began work under a large oak tree but in a few weeks built a small shop. In the fall of the year he moved his shop three miles east of the city onto his claim.

The first physician in the county was Dr. Albert C. Wedge, who arrived May 10, 1857. He soon erected the first drug store in the county at 140 South Broadway, Albert Lea. He was the leading physician in the county for fifty years.

The first law office. Augustus Armstrong arrived in May, 1857, and opened the first law office in the county at Albert Lea.

The first hotel in Albert Lea was built by George Hoops at 201 West Clark street. This was opened to the public by James Kinyon, proprietor, in October, 1857.

The first brick yard was opened by G. W. Watrous in 1857,

one-half mile below Luther Academy, Albert Lea, on the Glenville road.

The first shoe shop in the county was opened by Christian Fleck in his pre-emption shanty at 720 South Washington street, Albert Lea, in 1856. His health failing, he closed out his business late in the fall of this year and died in a Chicago hospital the following winter.

The first dentist in the county was G. W. Chesley, who in 1857 opened an office at a farm in Manchester, a mile west of Itasca.

The first frame house in Albert Lea was a dwelling built at 121 East Clark street, in the spring of 1857 by Daniel Hurd.

The first store in Albert Lea was opened by Julius Clark at 119 East Clark street in June, 1856. He closed out his business early in 1858 and returned to his Ohio home.

The first newspaper.—“The Southern Minnesota Star,” of which the “Freeborn County Standard” is the legitimate offspring, was the first newspaper published in the county, and made its appearance July 11, 1857, edited by Alf. P. Swineford, who in 1885 was appointed Governor of Alaska by President Cleveland. The birthplace of this journal was at 124 Elizabeth street, Albert Lea.

The first saloon in the county was opened at 137 South Broadway, Albert Lea, by William L. Gray in 1857. He closed out his business in 1861 and retired to Canada to avoid the war. He was a brother of N. T. Gray, who was associated with Alf. P. Swineford in the publication of the “Southern Minnesota Star,” who left at the same time to join the Confederate army and wore the gray until the close of the war.

The first school house in the county was built at Glenville in 1857. It was finished in August of that year and school at once commenced with Emily Streeter as teacher.

The first school in Albert Lea began the first Monday of December, 1857, in a small log building at the northeast corner of William and Elizabeth streets, with Austin D. Clark as teacher. The first school house in Albert Lea was erected during the summer of 1861, and school at once began with John L. Gibbs as teacher.

The first wagon shop, the first manufacturing establishment in Albert Lea, was built on the site of the government post office in the spring of 1858, by John Brownsill, who continued the business until 1869.

The first meat shop in the county was opened by Dennis Murray on the east side of Broadway, opposite the Masonic temple, Albert Lea, in 1866.

The first millinery shop in the county was opened on the south-



east corner of Water and Washington streets, Albert Lea, by Mrs. C. E. Squires, in the spring of 1860.

The first marriage in the county was on October 5, 1856, when Hanibal Bickford and Maria Colby were united in holy wedlock by William Andrews, Esq. This wedding seemed to prove an epidemic in the Colby family, for on January 13, 1857, a double wedding—the second in the county—took place in this most estimable family, when the only son, Charles C. Colby, and Miss Ellen Frost, and Daniel Hurd and Mary A. Colby were united in the holy bonds before Julius Clark, Esq.

The first birth in the city of Albert Lea was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Merry in the spring of 1857.

The first death in Albert Lea was that of Jacob Adrian in 1857, caused by alcohol.

The first jewelry store in the county was opened at 211 South Broadway in 1867, by a young man by the name of Ward, who sold out to Henry Schleuder the next year. He continued the business at the old stand for nineteen years, when he closed out in favor of his brother, Theodore, who with his nephew, Henry J. Harm, has continued the business at the same place ever since.

The first photographer in the county was C. G. Edwards, who opened parlors in the ballroom of the old Webber House in the fall of 1864. He remained in business but a short time when he removed to eastern Minnesota, but after many years came back, and for several years was publisher of the "Daily Tribune."

## CHAPTER VIII.

### EARLY DAYS.

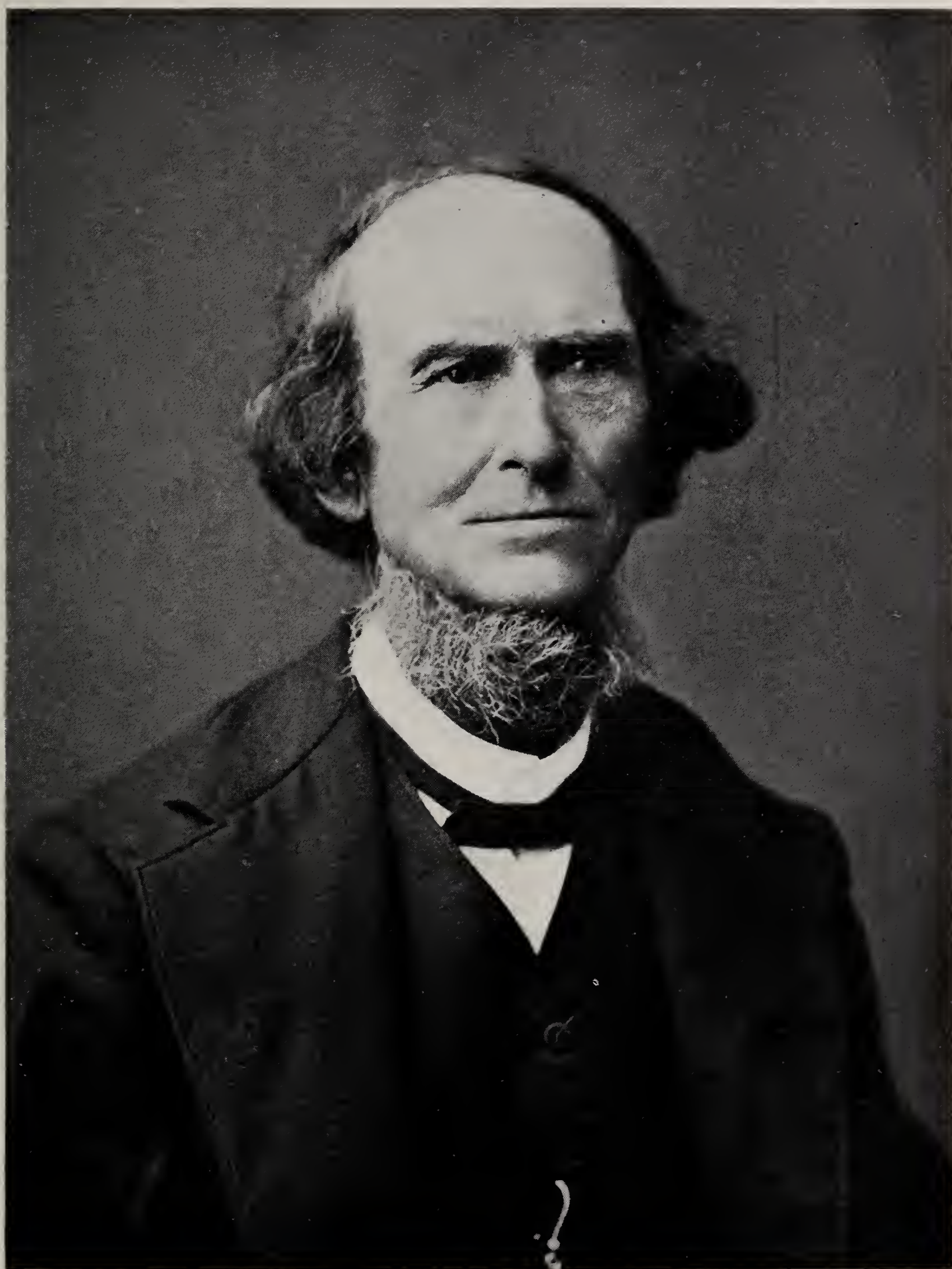
**Course of the Early Pioneers—First Settlement—Difficulty of Transportation—Story of the County Seat Wars as Told by One of the Principal Participants in the Contests—Appointment of County Commissioners—Albert Lea Selected as the Temporary Seat of Government—Albert Lea, St. Nicholas, Shell Rock City, Itasca, Fairfield and Bancroft Enter the Fight—Albert Lea Wins First Contest—Itasca Again Enters the Arena—Settlers About to Lose Their Claims—Albert Lea Citizens Ascertain Methods of Protecting the Claimants—Victory Again Comes to Albert Lea—Matter Settled Permanently.—By Dr. A. C. Wedge.**

The first white people who came into Freeborn county for the purpose of settlement, came via the Iowa route. This is accounted for from the fact that Iowa is the older state. Emigrants seeking new homes would naturally follow up the water courses that drained this part of the country. The valleys were beautiful and fertile and the streams were usually skirted with timber. The valley of the Cedar was first settled and then came the Shell Rock. The course of both streams is south and they are about twenty miles apart at the state line, joining about 100 miles further south.

About the month of May, 1853, came Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen with his family and made the first settlement in Freeborn county, on Section thirty-three, town of Shell Rock, just north of the state line. Possibly this man did not know that he was in Minnesota when he located his claim. This was before county lines were established. Vegger Gulbrandson, one of our territorial pioneers who has made it his business to look up all the facts in connection with this first settlement, has stated them very clearly in a communication to the "Freeborn County Standard," and I quote his letter in full, as a very important document relating to our early history.

"About the middle of May, 1853, Gulbrand Mellem and his brother-in-law, Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen, moved from Rock Prairie, Wis., to St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, Iowa, on the Cedar river and came across the prairie to Shell Rock river. G. Mellem settled on the south half of the town site of what is now





WILLIAM KELLAR





Northwood, in Iowa. Mr. Mellem was the first white man to settle in Worth county, Iowa. Ole Colbjornson Livdahlen moved four miles further north, just over the line into Minnesota, into Yankee Grove, later called the Beighley Grove, and that summer he built the old house, (now rebuilt on the Freeborn county fair grounds). Mr. Livdahlen sold his claim in 1856 and moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and bought 120 acres of land on the Waterloo ridge. There he lived with his wife and two sons, Ole and Colbjorn, four years, but sold in 1860 and settled on a quarter section in Kandiyohi county, Minnesota, and died there a well-to-do farmer. His wife, with her two sons, never went with her husband to Kandiyohi. Her brother, O. Mellem, gave her a quarter section of land four miles north of Lake Mills, Iowa, and she lived there until her death."

This man, Livdahlen, appears to have moved away about the time he was likely to have some white neighbors. This disposition "to move on" appeared to be quite a characteristic of some of the pioneers and this reminds me of Lorenzo Merry, who in 1856 owned a claim of 120 acres which is now the west portion of the city of Albert Lea. The east line of his land was what is now the center line of the paved street of Broadway. Before he moved here (in 1855) he had lived a year or two on the bank of the Cedar river in Iowa, not far from the state line near where the village of Lyle is now located, where he had a farm. The crossing of the Cedar at that point was then, and is to this day, known as Merry's Ford. Early in 1857, after the town site had been platted and just as there began to be a fair prospect of a good town springing up, he sold his property to Lucius P. Wedge for the sum of \$2,500, and one year later, after the county seat had been located, moved out west twenty-five miles and built a hotel north of Walnut lake, on the prairie out of sight of timber or habitation. He remained there only a few years, when he sold out and settled northwest of Bismarck, North Dakota, where we lost track of him.

I remarked in the beginning that the valley of the Cedar river was settled first. A few days after my arrival at Albert Lea, in May, 1857, I found the good lady of the log cabin trying to feed the hungry young men who were her boarders, with nothing to cook but flour of which she made good bread, and starch gravy. After a few days of this kind of fare, I concluded that I would like a change of diet, so with the team I had driven from Wisconsin, I made a trip to Mitchell, Iowa, to see if I could find something better.

I found in Mitcheel county, Iowa, a well improved country, thriving villages, improved farms and plenty of farm produce for sale. This indeed was a surprise. We of Freeborn county



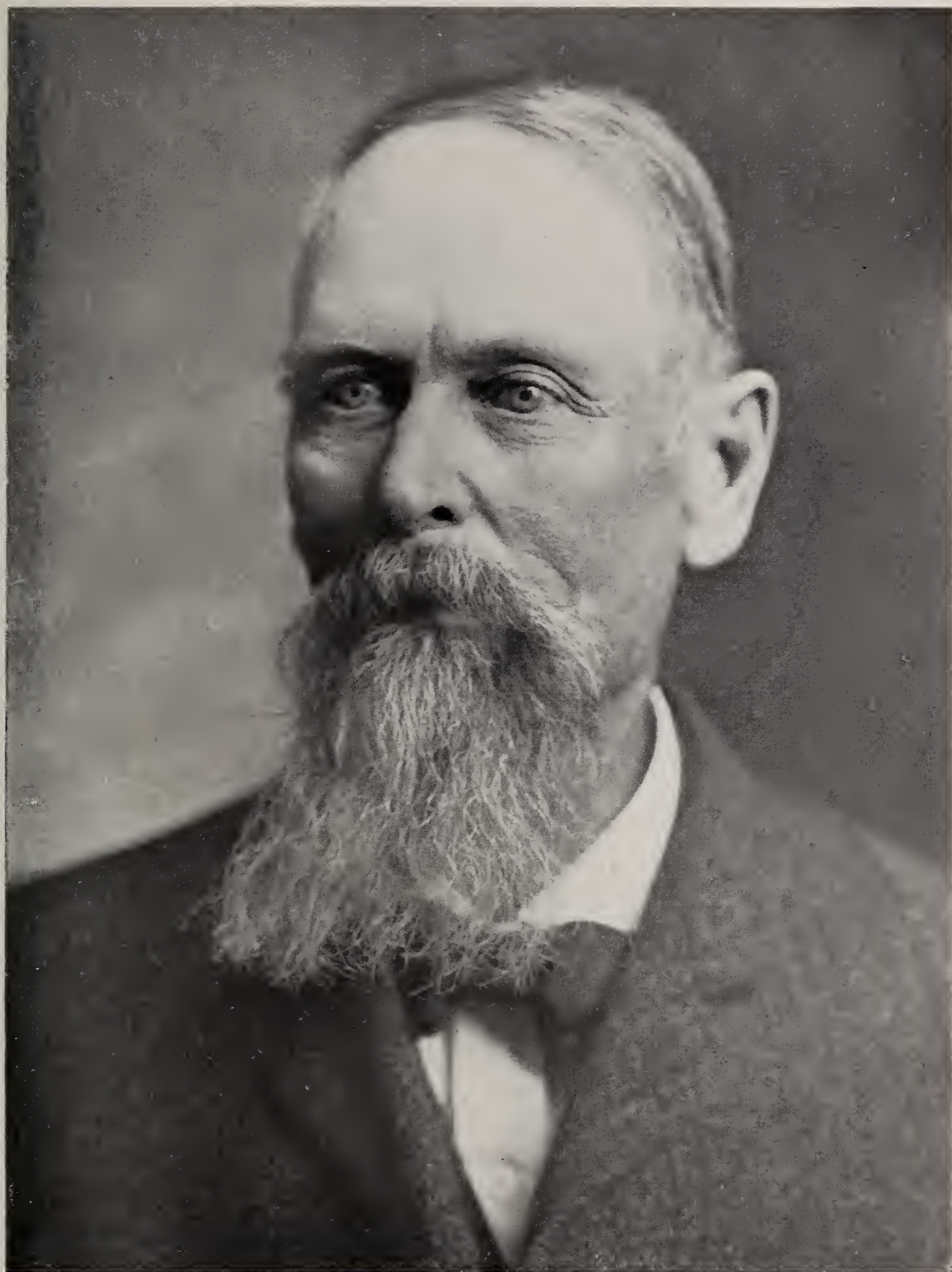
were in a wilderness, yet here was a garden almost at our door. The state line appeared to divide a land of plenty from an uninhabitable waste. Iowa had long been open to settlement. The door to our part of Minnesota had been opened but a short time, the lands not having surveyed until 1854. Bands of Indians were still to be seen. Home seekers were a little cautious about entering this then-unknown country. Then, too, means of transportation has much to do with the development of a new country. West of the Mississippi the only motive power was the ox and the horse, and but very few of the latter had been brought into the country. The population was largely composed of men who had come on foot, and it was nothing uncommon to see a party of men start for the land office at Chatfield on foot. We had no mail service, except that which was furnished by such volunteer pedestrians as were willing to ford rivers and sloughs to get the United States mail sack that was to bring us in connection with the civilized world. At that time the most natural outlet of this section was down through Iowa to McGregor on the Mississippi river opposite Prairie du Chien, which was the terminus of the railroad from the east.

As stated before, my route here, was via La Crosse, and I found this locality Sunday afternoon, May 10, 1857. I would not have recognized it as Albert Lea, had not the road led me through the water running over the dam, and brought me a little further to George S. Ruble's log house and the saw mill close by, with several hundred logs lying near, ready to be made into lumber. Driving upon the townsite proper, to a point where the Freeborn Hotel now stands, I saw Julius Clark's little log store and Lorenzo Merry's log house. There I met David Cheeney, and he told me what I had already suspected, namely that this was Albert Lea, the county seat of Freeborn county, Minnesota.

Much has been written, and many stories told, of the contest for the location of the county seat, and as I was one of the interested participants in the two battles which settled what to us was such a very important question, I am disposed to relate the facts as my memory recalls them after a lapse of half a century of time.

The historian of this volume has told you how the territory comprising this county came to be named Freeborn county. I will now try to inform you how Albert Lea came to be the county seat. Early in 1857 it was well known by the few actual residents of the county that there would be an enactment by the territorial legislature resulting in the organization of the county. It was also known by an association of land speculators, residents of Hastings and St. Paul, Minn. The name of the association was the Dakota Land Company. I only remember the names





MARTIN V. KELLAR





of a few of the members of this corporation. Among them were: Morton S. Wilkinson, John Brisbane, William S. Combs and Jesse Ramsey. The officers of this company were on the lookout for favorable points for starting young cities, and kept watch of the organization of new counties in which they could fix the location of the seat of government.

This company, early in the winter of 1856-57, sent an agent into this county to select a half section of land for a townsite, expecting to make it the county seat. This agent selected and filed on a half section of land in section twenty-one, township 101, range twenty-one, and christened it Bancroft.

Previous to this, George S. Ruble came here in 1855, and selected a location for a town. His claim included the outlet of what is now Fountain lake. He procured an act of the territorial legislature, granting him the right to build a dam which would raise said Fountain lake seven feet. This created a good water power, and he soon put up a fine saw-mill and a few years later a grist mill. In 1856 he, in conjunction with Lorenzo Merry and Thomas Thorne, platted and recorded the town site and named it Albert Lea, from the name of the lake on which it was located, and which had been discovered some years before.

It will readily be seen that much depended on the character of the legislation relating to the organization of Freeborn county. It was evidently the purpose of the Bancroft proprietors to procure the enactment of a law providing for the organization of Freeborn county, the incorporation of the city of Bancroft and the naming of that point as the county seat, although at that time their proposed site was a tract of land owned by the government and covered with snow on which there was not an inhabitant. About the time this well matured plan was ready to present to the legislature, George S. Ruble showed up in the lobby, and their scheme was checked. He found friends among the members, as the result of which a bill was introduced, and after something of a contest passed, authorizing the governor to appoint three commissioners, residents of the county, who should have authority to appoint county officers and select a place for the temporary county seat. It was also provided that at the next general election the legal voters should designate by ballot the location of the county seat; and the place receiving the most votes should be the permanent seat of county government. Among the many friends who came to the relief of Mr. Ruble were Hon. Wm. Freeborn (for whom the county was named) and Dr. W. W. Sweney, of Red Wing. It was well known at that time that the territorial legislature could do almost anything if they could get the votes. This is proved by the fact that five months after the act was passed, this same legislature was in-



duced to pass what appeared to be a very innocent bill providing for the incorporation of the town of Bancroft. After the vote had been taken something in the manner of the supporters of the bill aroused the suspicions of some of our friends. This led to the examination of the bill and the discovery of a "rider" or "joker" providing that hereafter the said town should be the permanent county seat of Freeborn county. Of course the fraud was shown up, it was quickly reconsidered and the objectionable clause stricken out.

It will be seen by the provisions of the act that there was to be a free-for-all fight, both for the temporary and permanent locations. The legislation out of the way, the next thing for Mr. Ruble to do was to see Governor Gorman and do the best he could to secure the appointment of commissioners favorable to Albert Lea. The governor, to show fairness, proposed that Mr. Ruble select one and the Bancroft people one, while he (the governor) would name the third. Mr. Ruble named Wm. Andrews a nice dignified old gentleman, then a farmer living east of the Shell Rock river in the township of that name. He was a justice of the peace for that section and a warm friend of Mr. Ruble. The Bancroft crowd named S. N. Frisbie, a farmer, living where the village of Oakland now stands. Mr. Ruble could not understand why they should choose Frisbie. But it was learned that the appointment was made at the suggestion of Morton S. Wilkinson, the agent who visited the proposed site of Bancroft, and probably made the legal filing. On his way out he happened to stop with Mr. Frisbie over night, and it was probable then that Mr. Wilkinson talked over his project with his host. At any rate he got the impression that Frisbie would be in their favor, which impression proved to be a mistake. The governor when it came to the point, did not like to take the responsibility of naming the third man, so he remarked that he would let a certain judge—I have forgotten his name—appoint him. In the meantime, "I saw the judge," remarks Ruble. It so happened that the judge knew Hon. E. C. Stacy, as a good Democrat, so he asked Mr. Ruble how Stacy would do. Stacy was perfectly satisfactory to Ruble, and it thus turned out that Albert Lea had all three of the commissioners in her favor. So Albert Lea "drove in the pickets" and won the first brush in the battle for the county seat. The commissioners met at the home of Geo. S. Ruble, March 3, 1857, and unanimously selected Albert Lea for the temporary county seat. This was two months and seven days after I met David Cheeney on the town site.

At this time the young towns that had sprung up were: Albert Lea on sections 8 and 9, Albert Lea township, principal proprietors George S. Ruble, L. P. Wedge, Thomas Thorne and





London--

E Hathaway-- Del Tax

~~1868~~ sect 19

Thomas Barnes

"

" 24

--- Morgan Eckert

~~Ec~~ Echert?



William Morin; St. Nicholas, three miles southeast of Albert Lea, LyBrand and Thompson proprietors; Shell Rock City (now Glenville), on the west bank of the Shell Rock river, eight miles southeast of Albert Lea, A. H. Bartlett, Fred Cutler, Edward Skinner and others, proprietors; Fairfield on the west bank of Rice lake in Riceland township, Samuel Beardsley, proprietor; and Itasca, three and a half miles northwest of Albert Lea, Dr. A. M. Burnham and Charles Colby, proprietors. All these and Bancroft were candidates for the county seat, although at that time the proprietors of the latter place had not even broken ground or taken any steps to build a town, in fact they had not even recorded their plat. Ruble had been here two years and had spent quite a little fortune in improving the water power and building a fine saw mill. He was not asking for the county seat to build a town, but was trying to build a city to make a fit place for the county seat. Lorenzo Merry had opened his log house almost a year before this. Julius Clark had a little log building which he lived in, was postmaster and kept a small stock of merchandise. Captain Thorne lived with his family near what is now Park avenue; Wm. Morin was then unmarried, had a claim which now is a part of the city site. Daniel Hurd and his wife occupied the house on the claim and Morin lived with them. Soon afterward the Hurds moved to the first frame house finished on the town site, the location being on the north side of Clark street a few rods east of Broadway. I arrived May 10, 1857. Augustus Armstrong arrived about the same time and we both built offices on Broadway. John Ruble and Capt. A. W. White owned and occupied farms not far west of the town site and both were identified with the interests of the prospective town. Swineford and Grey were here when I came and a dwelling and a building for a printing office were under way. Soon after this there was quite an influx of young active men, many of whom held land claims in the vicinity of the town, but made the town their headquarters. I now recall to mind Austin D. Clark, David Cheeney, Geo. Watrous, J. G. Godley, T. J. and Ed. Sheehan. A little later quite a large, cheap, frame building was put up just where the city hospital now stands, as a temporary hotel, and was opened and kept by an old gentleman known as "Pap" Kenyon. This furnished quarters for many of the single men and the floating population, some of whom became more or less interested in the young city. At the same time a number of families had arrived and built modest dwellings. I recall J. W. Brownsill, Samuel Eaton, Brock Woodruff and a few others. A. B. Webber had the Webber House about complete, and though not finished, before election it was opened for business. On the



opposite side of Broadway was quite a store. It was manifest that we were not a paper town.

As the time for election drew near we felt confident of success. The temporary location had given us a start, and also the opportunity to make friends of the settlers on the outlying claims. The fact that we were centrally located and the further fact that Bancroft was owned by a lot of real estate speculators, together with the fact that the opposition vote was likely to be divided between five outside candidates, made it very plain to be seen that Albert Lea would get a respectable plurality of the vote cast. But we were well aware that we had a wily foe in Bancroft; its friends were a sharp lot. The proprietors had made quite a sprint in the way of improvements in the two months previous to election. They had started up a steam saw-mill, put in quite a good store, had built a good house for the manager of the town site scheme and lastly had established quite a respectable newspaper, the "Bancroft Pioneer," with David Blakely as editor. The first issue appeared just a few days before the election and it gave a great many reasons why the voters should favor Bancroft for the county seat. We got on to the fact the Saturday night before election that the proprietors of Itasca and Fairfield had combined to give their vote to Bancroft in consideration of certain interchanges of blocks and lots.

These sites were all north of the line running east and west through the center of the county. This move looked more formidable, but we got busy and the night before election day we made arrangements for the withdrawal of Shell Rock City (now Glenville). This gave us the votes largely of the two southern tiers of townships except the strength of St. Nicholas, which persisted in staying in the fight. We also secured support and influence of Geneva which did not enter into the county seat contest. The Geneva people thought they stood a good show of getting the United States land office located there and they concluded that it would be better for her interest to favor us rather than Bancroft. So when the ballots were counted on that day in October, 1857, the vote stood 402 for Albert Lea, 199 for Bancroft and 29 for St. Nicholas. This was the full vote of the county on this question, except for a few scattering ballots for Shell Rock City.

This resulted in the immediate death of St. Nicholas and Fairfield, and their sites were soon converted into farms. The proprietors of Bancroft made a desperate attempt to keep their town alive. They had spent considerable money, and did not like to give up their project. They professed to think that the north half of the county was going to have the largest popula-



tion, thus eventually bringing them the county seat. But the hard times that followed the financial crash of the fall of 1857 presented too great a difficulty and after a fruitless struggle for a year or so the people who had cast their lot in the promising burg began to move away. Then a little later the buildings began to be moved to the adjoining farms.

Dr. Burnham did not propose to let his town of Itasca die, and some of the Bancroft houses were moved there. So we had the satisfaction of seeing our principal rival as the site of a beautiful young city, a deserted waste. The lots and blocks were year after year sold and bid in by the county for delinquent taxes and finally for a small consideration the county obtained a quit-claim deed, and now it is the location of our county poor house.

While we were a territory it required an act of the legislature to obtain a vote to change the county seat, but the first session of our state legislature enacted a law directing the county commissioners to submit the question to the people, whenever a number of legal voters equal to one-half of the votes cast at the last general election should sign a petition requesting the same; provided, however, that no such vote should be taken more frequently than once in three years. Itasca city, though located only three and one-half miles northwest of us, managed to keep alive. During the summer of 1860 a general store was opened, and a newspaper, the "Itasca Herald," was established. The proprietors obtained the required number of signatures to a petition and presented it to the county commissioners during the summer of 1860, said petition requested the removal of the county seat from Albert Lea to Itasca city, subject to the appeal of the voters at the next general election to be held in November of that year. The prayer of the petition was at first denied for the reason that one of the state district judges had held that the law under which the petition called the commissioners to act, was unconstitutional. But about a month later the people of Albert Lea requested the commissioners to call a meeting and reconsider their action of the previous meeting and order the election. Our reasons for making this move was an unexpected event, which took place about this time. President Buchanan issued a proclamation bringing the government lands in this vicinity into market and directing that they be sold to the highest bidder on a certain day not far distant. This was before the enactment of the homestead law. Most all of the real bona fide settlers were living on their claims with their families, and holding the land by virtue of their pre-emption papers, which they could do indefinitely unless the land was brought into market. The proclamation required every claim holder to procure a land warrant



or get the money and appear at the Chatfield government land office, prove the fact of their settlement and pay for the land before the day appointed for the sale or they were liable to be sold out of house and home. This action of the president came at an unfortunate time, as the county had not recovered from the financial crash of the fall of 1857. Not one in ten of the settlers in the county was prepared to make the payment, and at that particular time no money was to be procured by loan in the region. The immediate result was a panic among the settlers and many were soon flocking into our little town to see what they could do. After consultation we concluded to call together a few leading men from the county at large for further consultation. The result of this was the raising of a fund to pay the expenses of a representative to Washington, who would bring to the attention of the President the condition that existed in this locality, and to procure if possible a postponement of the sale. Geo. W. Skinner who was then one of the county commissioners, and who claimed to be a personal acquaintance of President Buchanan, was delegated to make the pilgrimage. About a week after his departure we received a telegram, which came part of the way by mail, that "settlers can refile." It was hard to understand this, but it led us to believe that there was hope. Mr. Skinner returned in due time, and a meeting of settlers was called to hear his report, which was that the president had no right to withdraw the land from market. But he had learned from the general land office that though the land the settlers occupied would be subject to private entry the day after the sale by anyone who had the wherewithal, nevertheless, the settlers could refile that same day and hold their claims another year before they were subject to private entry. A great crowd of pioneers were in town that day, and an organization was perfected, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to see that new filing papers were ready to file as soon as the sale day came. The plan worked out all right. No bidder appeared at the sale, and the new filings were made. The people of Itasca took no part in these proceedings and made light of the matter, claiming that we were just playing the game of the demagogue to get the votes of the settlers against the removal of the county seat. Whether we were or not, we made use of their attitude to our own advantage, and it was soon apparent that "we had them on the run." This explained why we requested the commissioners to call the election; we thought it a good time to settle the matter forever. The election was held on the second Tuesday of November, 1860, the same day that we elected Abraham Lincoln president of the United States. The ballot was the old-fashioned form in use before the



adoption of the Australian system. The question of the county seat removal was at the bottom, and those for the removal of the county seat read, "For removal of the county seat to Itasca," while those in favor of retaining the seat of government at Albert Lea read, "Against the removal of the county seat to Itasca." It was reported on the evening of the election by one of the friends who were at the polling place in the town of Manchester, that a Norwegian friend of Itasca, who had been listening to the reading of the tickets as they were being counted, when the count was about complete exclaimed, "Why Albert Lea did not get a vote." We won out handsomely and poor Itasca as a town just lay down and died. And now over her grave is one of the most beautiful farms in Freeborn county, a part of the site being now occupied by the well-known Wedge nursery.

## CHAPTER IX.

### ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARY LINES.

**Freeborn Included in the Original Limits of Wabash County—  
Made a Part of Dakota County in 1851—Divided Between  
Rice and Blue Earth Counties—Freeborn County Created in  
1855—Organized in 1857—Old Precincts—Township Names  
and Changes in Affiliation and Boundaries.**

Freeborn county was included in the original limits of Wabasha county (then spelled Wabashaw), which was one of the nine counties created by the first territorial legislature.

Governor Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor, arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1849, and on June 1, 1849, issued his first proclamation. June 11 he issued a second proclamation, dividing the territory into three judicial districts. Freeborn county, then unpopulated, was included in the third judicial district, with Judge David Cooper on the bench. Court for this district was to be held at Mendota.

July 7, 1849, the governor issued a proclamation dividing the territory into seven council districts and ordering an election. Freeborn county was included in the seventh district.

The first session of the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota was held at St. Paul, commencing September 3, 1849.

By an act approved October 27, 1849, the territory was divided into the counties of Washington, Ramsey, Benton, Itasca, Wabashaw, Dakota, Wahnahtha, Mahkahto and Pembina. Only the counties of Washington, Ramsey and Benton were fully organized for all county purposes. The others were organized only for the purpose of appointment of justices of the peace, constables, and such other judicial and ministerial offices as might be specially provided for. They were entitled to "any number of justices of the peace and constables, not exceeding six in number, to be appointed by the governor, and their term of office was made two years, unless sooner removed by the governor," and they were made conservators of the peace.

Wabashaw county, as "erected" by the act of October 27, 1849, comprised practically all of the southern part of the present State of Minnesota. Its northern boundary was the parallel running through the mouth of the St. Croix and the mouth of the





FREEBORN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND JAIL





Yellow Medicine rivers; its southern boundary was the Iowa line; its eastern the Mississippi, and its western the Missouri, and it also included the big peninsula between the Missouri and the Big Sioux rivers, and all of what is at present southeastern South Dakota. Of this vast country the present Freeborn county was a part.

Chapter 1, Revised Statutes of Minnesota of 1851, divides the territory in Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabashaw counties and defines their boundaries. Under the revised statutes, all the territory west of the Mississippi river and east of a line running from Medicine Bottle's village at Pine Bend, due south to the Iowa line, was erected into a separate county to be known as Wabashaw. This included in Wabashaw county a portion of what is now Dakota county as well as all the present counties of Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge, Olmsted Winona, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. The line south from Pine Bend in the Mississippi strikes practically the eastern boundary of Freeborn county, the exact line being impossible of verification as the Medicine Bottle tepee were differently located at various times, always, however, being within a few rods of the bend in the river.

By the same revision, Dakota county was made to consist of all that part of the territory lying west of the Mississippi river, west of the county of Wabasha, and south of a line beginning at the mouth of the Crow river and up said river and the north branch thereof to its source and thence due west to the Missouri river. Thus Dakota county then included a portion of what is now Dakota county, and portions of what are now the counties of Wright, Meeker, Stearns, Pope, Stevens, Kandijohi, and Traverse, and all of Big Stone, Swift, Hennepin, Scott, Carver, McLeod, Renville, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon, Red Wood, Brown, Nicolet Sibley, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele, Waseca, Blue Earth, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, and practically all of Freeborn as well as all of the counties in what is now South Dakota, west of the counties named, to the Missouri river.

Rice county was created by act of the territorial legislature, March 5, 1853. Section 7, Chapter 15, General Laws of Minnesota, 1853, gives the boundaries as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of Dakota county, thence west along said county line to Lake Sakatah, thence south to the Iowa state line, thence east along said state line to the southwest corner of Fillmore county, thence along the west line of Fillmore, Wabasha and Goodhue counties to the place of beginning.

It will thus be seen that the starting point of Rice county,



as then constituted, was at the "southwest corner of Dakota county." The west and south lines of Dakota county are described in the act as follows: "Beginning in the Minnesota at the mouth of the Credit river, thence on a direct line to the upper branch of the Cannon river, thence down said river to its lowest fork." The upper branch of the Cannon river is the Straight river, and consequently, this boundary line of Rice county started at the confluence of these rivers, at the present site of Faribault, ran southwestward to Lake Sakatah; and thence south, crossing Waseca and Freeborn counties about on the range line between ranges twenty-two and twenty-three, to the Iowa line. Thence it ran along to the Iowa border to a little village called Granger in township 101, range eleven, Fillmore county. Thence it ran in a direct line, due northwest to the place of beginning.

Rice county therefore took in only a part of the present Rice county. It included the four eastern townships in Waseca county, and all but the four western townships in Freeborn county. It also took in practically all of Mower and Steele counties, about one-third of Dodge, a very small portion of Fillmore and Goodhue, and possibly a few sections in Olmsted county.

The counties created at the same time as Rice were Goodhue, Fillmore, Le Sueur, Blue Earth, Sibley, Nicollet and Pierce. The four western townships of what is now Freeborn county were included in Blue Earth county.

February 20, 1855, the counties of Freeborn, Mower, Brown, Carver, Dodge, Faribault, Olmstead, Renville, Steele, Stearns and Wright were created by the legislature, and some changes made in the names and boundaries of others. Freeborn county, as created, at that time embraced the same area as at present.

According to the land office records the first entry of land was made in January, 1855, by Nelson Everest, and thirty-four of the first conveyances by deed were recorded in Dodge county between April, 1856 and March, 1857. In February, 1859, these records were transcribed by William Morin and brought to Freeborn county. In 1856, for purposes of territorial election, Freeborn county constituted one district. At the first election which was held November 3, 1856, at the William Andrews home on the border line between Hayward and Shell Rock, forty-four votes were cast. In March, 1857, Governor Willis A. Gorman, pursuant to the act of the legislature, organized Freeborn county and appointed E. C. Stacy, S. N. Frisbie and William Andrews as temporary commissioners. These commissioners assembled March 3, 1857, at the house of Geo. S. Ruble, 522 Bridge street, Albert Lea, and then and later appointed the various county officers as follows: Sheriff, Geo. S. Ruble; probate judge, E. C. Stacy; coroner, A. H. Bartlett; attorney, J. W. Heath; surveyor,



E. P. Skinner; justices, Geo. Watson, I. P. Linde, Elias Stanton, Patrick Fitzsimmons.

These appointments took effect March 20, of the same year, except that of Fitzsimmons, who received his authority somewhat later. In April William Morin was appointed register of deeds in place of Mr. Thompson, who declined to qualify. Mr. Bartlett refused to serve as coroner and the office was tendered in succession to George Watson and C. S. Tarbell. The first general election was held October 13, 1857, and 646 votes were cast. The following officers were chosen: Register of deeds, Wm. Morin; treasurer, Henry King; sheriff, J. W. Heath; probate judge, A. W. White; clerk of court, E. P. Skinner; surveyor, H. D. Brown; coroner, A. M. Burnham; commissioners, S. N. Frisbie, Joseph Rickard, Peter Clausen. Albert Lea was chosen as county seat.

### OLD ELECTION PRECINCTS.

Freeborn county is divided into twenty townships, five commissioners districts and two legislative districts. There are also various school and road districts. The township and section lines in this county were surveyed in 1854. At the election of 1856, Freeborn county constituted one election district. The first attempt at political divisions in the county was made by the county commissioners at their first meeting held March 3, 1857. Three assessor's districts were constituted. The first district consisted of what are now the townships of Carlston, Freeborn, Hartland, Bath, Geneva and Newry. The assessor was James Drake, of Geneva. The second district consisted of what are now the townships of Manchester, Bancroft, Riceland, Moscow, Oakland and London. The assessor was John Demming of Moscow. The third district consisted of what are now the townships of Alden, Pickerel Lake, Albert Lea, Hayward, Oakland, Mansfield, Nunda, Freeman and Shell Rock. The assessor was Walter Stott.

During the early session of the board eleven election districts were created. These were the predecessors of the present townships. The first seven were created May 18, 1857. The first precinct contained the present townships of Freeborn, Hartland, Carlston, and Manchester. The election was to be held at the house of Elias Stanton, in Carlston. The judges were to be Ole Peterson, of Manchester, T. P. Page, of Freeborn, and Elias Stanton. The second precinct consisted of the present township of Bancroft, the west half of Riceland, the northwest quarter of Hayward and all of Albert Lea, except sections 25 and 36. The election was to be held at the home of George S. Ruble, in Albert Lea village, and the judges were to be Thomas C. Thorne, George



P. Hoopes, and C. C. Colby. The third precinct consisted of the present township of London, Shell Rock, Freeman, the southwest quarter of Hayward, and sections 25 and 36 in Albert Lea. The election was to be held in the home of A. H. Bartlett and the judges were to be A. H. Bartlett, J. S. Corning and Oliver Andrews. The fourth precinct included the present townships of Moscow and Oakland and the east halves of Riceland and Hayward. The election was to be held at the home of R. K. Crum, of Moscow, and the judges were to be Asa Bullock, Jr., Samuel A. Beardsley and A. C. Porter. The fifth precinct consisted of the present townships of Alden, Pickerel Lake, Nunda and Mansfield. The election was to be held at the home of John Ruble, and the judges were to be John Ruble, Asa W. White and William Banning. The sixth precinct consisted of the present townships of Bath, Geneva and Newry. The election was to be held at the home of E. C. Stacy and the judges were to be Isaac P. Linde, John Heath and Edward Brooks. This divided the whole county.

This division was evidently not satisfactory, for later in the same session the seventh precinct was created out of the third and fourth precincts and included the present township of London and the south half of Oakland. The election was to be held at the home of John T. Asher and the judges were to be John Aikins, Rodger P. Gipson and Benjamin Stanton. July 6, 1857, the original first precinct was split and the eighth precinct was created, consisting of the present townships of Freeborn and Hartland. The election was to be held at the home of Edwin S. Dunn and the judges were to be Charles D. Giddings, E. S. Dunn and J. P. Page. The ninth district was created September 7, 1857. The boundaries are not recorded. The election was to be held at the home of J. M. Clark and the judges of election were to be Erastus D. Porter, Charles Sergeant and George Roberts. The tenth precinct was created the same day out of the old second and fourth precincts and occupied all but the northwest quarter of the present township of Riceland. The election was to be held at the home of Samuel A. Beardsley and the judges were to be J. Snyder, G. P. Bracket and Samuel A. Beardsley. The eleventh precinct was created from the north half of the fifth precinct and included the present townships of Alden and Pickerel Lake. The election was to be held at the home of Frederick Fink and the judges were to be A. W. White, John Ruble and F. Woodward.

### **TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES.**

On April 7, 1858, the county board created twenty townships, the lines corresponding with the Congressional survey. Names were given as follows: In range 19, township 101, Asher



(now London); township 102, Oakland; township 103, Guildford (now Moscow); township 104, Seward, also spelled Steward in the records (now Newry). In range 18, township 104, Geneva; township 103, Beardsley (now Riceland); township 102, Hayward; township 101, Shellrock (new spelled as two words). In range 21, township 101, Freeman; township 102, Albert Lea; township 103, Bancroft; township 104, Porter (now Bath). In range 22, township 104, Hartland; township 103, Buckeye (now Manchester); township 102, Pickerel Lake (now spelled correctly Pickerel); township 101, Nunda. In range 23, township 101, Mansfield; township 102, Alden; township 103, Stanton (now Carlston); township 104, Freeborn.

Twelve townships were authorized to perfect an organization on May 11, 1858. They were: Asher (now London), Guildford (now Moscow), Geneva, Beardsley (now Riceland), Shell Rock, Albert Lea, Hartland, Bancroft, Buckeye (now Manchester), Pickerel Lake, Nunda and Freeborn. The other eight were attached to these twelve townships as follows: The south half of Oakland to Asher (now London), the north half of Oakland to Guildford (now Moscow), Seward (now Newry) and the east half of Porter (now Bath) to Geneva, the northeast quarter of Hayward to Beardsley (now Riceland), the south half of Hayward and the east half of Freeman to Shell Rock, the northwest quarter of Hayward to Albert Lea, the west half of Porter (now Bath) to Hartland, Alden to Pickerel Lake, Mansfield to Nunda, Stanton (now Carlston) to Freeborn. This seems to have left the west half of Freeman unattached.

June 7, 1858, the board recognized the organization of Stanton as perfected by the election of May 11, 1858. The name of Stanton (now Carlston) was changed to Springfield and that of Guildford to Moscow. Asher was attached to Shell Rock and the south half of Oakland to Moscow. At this time the board approved the action of the citizens of Buckeye (now Manchester) in changing the name of the township to Liberty.

September 16, 1858, Pickerel Lake was attached to Albert Lea. Oakland was granted an organization. Porter (now Bath) was also granted an organization, as was also Hayward, the name of the latter being changed to Douglass, and sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 attached to Shell Rock. On October 28, township 101, range 19, was granted an organization as Lindon and it was many years before the name London appears as the correct title. At the same meeting Steward (also spelled Seward in the records) was granted an organization and the name changed to Union. The name is now Newry. At the same meeting the name of Beardsley was changed to Riceland and Liberty to Manchester. January 5, 1859, after receiving a communication



from the secretary of state, Union (now Newry) was changed to Dover: Springfield (now Carlston) to Groton, and Douglass to Hayward. On the same day a petition to renew the town of Asher as at first organized by the board, was rejected.

September 13, 1859, the board changed the name of Dover to Newry. The name of Groton, formerly Springfield, was changed to Carlston. Pickerel Lake was again voted a separate organization, but did not accept it. Certain sections of township 102, range 20, were detached from Shell Rock, and restored to Hayward.

January 4, 1860, a petition was received to have sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 in Hayward set back into Shell Rock township, but this was rejected by reason that the request had not been signed by a majority of the voters. October 20, 1860, Pickerel Lake was attached to Manchester and Alden to Carlston. December 17, the town of Freeman was granted an organization as Green.

September 3, 1861, Alden was detached from Albert Lea and attached to Carlston. April 10, 1861, an effort was made to have eighty acres owned by Oliver Andrews in Hayward, set off, and attached to Shell Rock, but this petition was rejected by the board on the ground that it had not been balloted upon by the voters of the town.

September 5, 1865, Pickerel Lake was separated from Albert Lea and granted an organization.

January 2, 1866, the towns of Mansfield and Alden were granted organization.

**London** was created as Asher April 7, 1858, and was granted a separate organization. To it was attached the south half of Oakland. There were too few people to organize, however, and the south half of Oakland was attached to Moscow and Asher to Shell Rock, June 7, 1858. October 27, 1858, Asher was granted an organization as Lindon and this name appears in the records for some years. Later it was changed to London.

**Shell Rock** appears in the early records as one word. It was created April 7, 1858, and to it was attached the south half of Hayward, and the east half of Freeman. January 7, 1858, Asher (now London) was also attached to it. September 16, 1858, all of Hayward was cut off except sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. September 13, 1859, these sections were also cut off. Freeman was granted an organization December, 1860, and Asher was granted an organization as Lindon (now London) October 28th of that year. Shell Rock was organized May 11, 1858. January 4, 1860, an attempt was made to again attach sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 in Hayward township to Shell Rock. This attempt failed as did also that effort made April 10, 1861,



to have eighty acres of land in Hayward upon which the Andrews house was situated attached to Shell Rock.

**Freeman** was created June 7, 1858, the east half being attached to Shell Rock. Early settlers declare that the west half was attached to Nunda, but of this no record appears. It was named in honor of the Freeman family, who were the first to move into the central portion of the town. December 17, 1860, it was granted a separate organization, and the name changed to Green, but it nevertheless continued to be called by its first title and has ever been known as Freeman.

**Nunda** was granted a separate organization in April 7, 1858, and to it was attached Mansfield. It was organized May 11, 1858. The town was named Nunda, Ill., the town from whence came Patrick Fitzsimmons. Before township days this vicinity was known as Bear Lake. Mansfield was cut off and granted an organization January 2, 1866.

**Mansfield.** Mansfield was created April 7, 1858, and attached to Nunda for township purposes. It was granted a separate organization January 2, 1866.

**Alden.** April 7, 1858, Alden was attached to Pickerel Lake. As a part of Pickerel Lake, it was attached to Albert Lea, September 16, 1858. October 20, 1860, Alden was attached to Carlston. This act evidently did not go into effect, as on September 3, 1861, another act attached Alden to Carlston, thus leading to the conclusion that the previous act had not been effective. January 2, 1866, Alden was granted a separate organization.

**Pickerel Lake.** At the meeting of the county board of April 7, 1858, Pickerel Lake was voted an independent government and to it was attached the township of Alden. There were too few people for organization, however, and September 16, 1858, it was attached to Albert Lea. September 13, 1859, it was again granted a separate organization, but did not perfect an organization. October 20, 1860, Pickerel Lake was attached to Manchester. Although the records are silent on the subject, it would appear that after being attached to Manchester about a year, it was again attached to Albert Lea until September 5, 1865, when it was granted a separate organization.

**Albert Lea.** This township was created by the meeting of the county board held April 7, 1858. To it was attached the northwestern quarter of Hayward. This was cut off and Hayward organized September 16, 1858. September 16, 1858, Pickerel Lake was attached to Albert Lea. The relation of Pickerel Lake and Alden to Albert Lea is discussed elsewhere. Alden, having been attached to Pickerel Lake, was with that town attached to Albert Lea until September 3, 1861, when it was attached to



Carlston; while Pickerel Lake was attached to Albert Lea with the exception of one year until its organization was authorized September 5, 1865.

**Hayward.** This town takes its name from Geo. Hayward the prominent citizen of the early days. April 7, 1858, the northeast quarter was attached to Beardsley (now Riceland), the northwest quarter was attached to Albert Lea, and the south half to Shell Rock. September 16, 1858, Hayward was granted an organization and the name changed to Douglass. January 5, 1859, the county board changed the name to the original designation of Hayward. At the time of organization by the county board, September 16, 1858, sections, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 were cut off and attached to Shell Rock, but these sections were again placed in Hayward one year later. Various efforts, all unsuccessful, were afterward made to again place these sections in Shell Rock.

**Oakland.** This township was created by the county board April 7, 1857, under its present name. The designation is doubtless derived from the burr oak openings which prevailed from that locality. The north half of the township was attached to Guildford (now Moscow) and the south half to Asher (now London). June 7, 1858, the south half of Oakland was also attached to Moscow. September 16, 1858, the board authorized its organization.

**Moscow.** This name has been borne by this township since the earliest days and is due to a fancied resemblance of an early forest fire to the appearance of Moscow in Russia when burned by Napoleon during his ill-fated Russian campaign. However, at the creation April 7, 1858, the name of Guildford was given at the suggestion of the Rev. Theophilus Lowry. In the county records this name appears spelled Guildford although the Connecticut town is spelled Guilford without the "d." To this town was attached the north half of Oakland. The name of Guildford was changed to Moscow June 7, 1858. At the same time the southern half of Oakland was attached to it. Oakland was cut off and its organization authorized September 16, 1858.

**Riceland.** This township was created by the county board April 7, 1858, under the name of Beardsley in honor of Samuel A. Beardsley who had platted the village of Fairfield. To it was attached the northwest corner of Hayward. On October 28, 1858, the name was changed to Riceland. The northwest quarter of Hayward was cut off September 16, 1858, when the latter township was authorized to organize. The township of Beardsley was granted an organization May 11, 1858.

**Bancroft.** This is the only town which has remained unchanged both in name and area of town government since its



creation by the county board April 7, 1858. It was named from the village of Bancroft, which in turn was named from the historian Bancroft. The organization was perfected May 11, 1858.

**Manchester.** This town is one of the two townships in Freeborn county whose areas of town government have remained unchanged since the creation of the towns by the county board April 7, 1858. In the earliest days this town was known as Olborg, in honor of the Norwegian postoffice from whence Ole Peterson came. At its creation by the county board it was given the name of Buckeye. This name had been applied to a postoffice established in 1857, and was given in honor of S. B. Smith who was a native of Ohio, the "Buckeye" state. At the election May 11, 1858, the name of Liberty was agreed upon. September 16 of the same year the state auditor notified the county board that the name must be changed. October 20, 1858, the designation of Manchester was agreed upon and that has since remained its title. The town was organized May 11, 1858. Manchester was the name of a town in Illinois from whence came Mathias Anderson.

**Carlston.** April 7, 1858, the county board created this township and gave it the name of Stanton, in honor of Elias Stanton who was frozen to death November 1, 1857. The town was attached to Freeborn, but the voters met on May 11, 1858, and perfected an organization of their own. This organization was recognized by the board June 7, 1858, and on that same date, the name was changed to Springfield, but this name had already been chosen by another township in the state, so on January 5, 1859, the name was changed to Groton. On September 13, 1859, the voters of that town petitioned the county board for a change of name from Groton to Carlston and a separate organization. The petition was granted. L. J. Carlston, after whom the town was named, was a genial, well-educated gentleman who exerted considerable political influence in the northwest part of the county in the early days. He and a man named Johnson were accidentally drowned in Freeborn lake in the fall of 1858. It is generally supposed that the proper spelling of the name is Carlson and that "t" was added by mistake.

**Freeborn.** On April 7, 1858, the county board authorized Freeborn to perfect a township organization. To it, Stanton (now Carlston), was attached. Carlston was organized September 13, 1859. Freeborn was named from the lake and village, which in turn had taken their name from the county. The county was named from William Freeborn, an early settler of Minnesota and a prominent citizen of Red Wing.

**Hartland.** This town was authorized by the county board April 7, 1858, to perfect an organization May 11, of the same

year. To it was attached the western half of Porter, now Bath. Bath was granted an organization September 16, 1858.

**Bath.** This town was originally called Porter in honor of E. D. Porter, who settled near Clark's Grove at an early day. At the meeting of the county board April 7, 1858, the east half of Porter was attached to Geneva and the west half to Hartland. September 16, 1858, Porter was granted an organization. The name Bath, which was adopted by the voters April 15, 1859, was given in honor of the former home of F. W. Calkins, who had lived at the county seat of Steuben county, Ohio.

**Geneva.** This township was authorized April 7, 1858, to perfect a town government May 11, 1858. To it were attached Seward (now Newry) and the east half of Porter (now Bath). It was named from the village which had been platted and which in turn was named from Geneva, New York. Newry was cut off and granted an organization October 28, 1858. Bath was granted an organization September 16, 1858.

**Newry.** This township was originally called Seward in honor of William H. Seward, the great Republican leader. In the commissioners' records, however, it is several times spelled Steward. The board authorized its organization April 7, 1858. It was attached to Geneva for township purposes. October 29, 1858, it was granted a separate organization and its name changed to Union. January 5, 1859, the name was changed to Dover. September 13, 1859, it was given the name of Newry.

**Steward.** This is the spelling which appears in one or two places in the county records for Seward, an early name of what is now Newry township.

**Union.** This was one of the early names of the present Newry township.

**Dover.** Dover is a name at one time borne by the present township of Newry.

**Guildford.** This is the spelling given by the county record to the name borne for a short time by what is now the town of Moscow.

**Guilford.** This is doubtless the correct spelling of the name borne for a short period by what is now the town of Moscow.

**Beardsley.** This was the name originally given to what is now Riceland.

**Oldburg.** This was the name originally given to what is now Manchester.

**Buckeye.** This was one of the names applied to Manchester in the early days.

**Liberty.** This is the name borne at one time by what is now the town of Manchester.



**Stanton.** This was the name originally given to what is now Carlston.

**Springfield.** This was one of the names applied to Carlston in the early days.

**Groton.** This is the name borne at one time by what is now the town of Carlston.

**Porter.** This was an early name given to what is now the township of Bath.

**Asher** was the original name of what is now London.

**Shellrock** is an early manner of writing Shell Rock.

**Bear Lake** is an early name applied to what is now Nunda..

**Groten.** Doubtless, through mistake, this spelling appears several times in the county records in place of Groton.

## CHAPTER X.

### COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

**Freeborn County in Seventh, Sixth and Fourth Council Districts—Constitution Convention—Freeborn and Faribault Counties Become the Fourteenth Senatorial District—Freeborn, Steele and Waseca Become the Sixteenth District—Freeborn County Becomes the Fifth District—Changed to the Fourth and Then to Ninth—Congressional Representative.**

On July 7, 1849, Gov. Alexander Ramsey, by proclamation, divided the territory of Minnesota into council districts; Freeborn county, with the rest of southern Minnesota (exclusive of the settlements on the banks of the Mississippi), coming within the limits of the seventh district.

1849.—The first territorial legislature met on September 3, and adjourned November 1. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle, and in the house by Alexis Bailly, of Mendota and Gideon H. Pond, of Oak Grove. Although Freeborn county was included in the seventh district, no settlers had at that time located within the present limits of the county.

1851.—The second territorial legislature assembled January 1, and adjourned March 31. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle, and in the house by B. H. Randall, of Ft. Snelling, and Alexander Faribault, of Faribault. Freeborn county was still without settlers. By the apportionment of this legislature, the territory having been divided into counties, Dakota county, which included Freeborn county, was constituted the sixth council district.

1852.—The third territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The sixth district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, and in the house by James McC. Boal and Benjamin H. Randall.

1853.—The fourth territorial legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. At this session the boundary lines of many of the counties were changed, and practically all of Freeborn county, except the four townships on the west was included in Rice county. The boundaries of the legislative districts, how-



ever, remained the same, and the present Freeborn county remained in the district which comprised the area included in Dakota county by the act of 1851. At the session of 1853 the sixth district was represented by Martin McLeod in the council and A. E. Ames and B. H. Randall in the house.

1854.—The fifth territorial legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The sixth district was represented in the council by Joseph R. Brown and in the house by Hezekiah Fletcher and William H. Nobles.

1855.—The sixth territorial legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The sixth district was represented in the council by Joseph R. Brown and in the house by H. H. Sibley and D. M. Hanson. At this session Freeborn county was created with its present boundaries. By the apportionment Goodhue, Dodge and Freeborn counties were constituted the fourth district, although Freeborn was not contingent to the others.

1856.—The seventh territorial legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. William Freeborn, from whom the county is named, represented the fourth district in the council, and Charles Gardner and J. B. Hubbell in the house.

1857.—The eighth territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. An extra session assembled April 27 and adjourned May 23. The fourth district was represented in the council by William Freeborn and in the house by Nelson Payne and W. W. Sweeney.

March 3, 1857, congress passed an act authorizing the people to form a state constitution. Each council district was to be represented in this convention by two members for each councilman and representative to which it was entitled. The fourth district, consisting of Goodhue, Dodge and Freeborn counties, was to have six delegates. In the spring a convention was held at Mantorville to nominate delegates, and to agree upon the proper division of representation among the three counties. For some cause, Freeborn county was not represented at that convention and was awarded but one of the nominations. But at the election Isaac Turtlott, of Dodge county, was defeated, and Freeborn sent two delegates, George Watson and E. C. Stacy.

The constitutional convention, consisting of 108 members, was authorized to meet at the capital on the second Monday in July to frame a state constitution, and to submit it to the people of the territory. The election, already mentioned, was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. July 13 the delegates met, but a disagreement arising in the organization, the Republican members organized one body and the Democrats organized separately. Each of these bodies, claiming to be the legally constituted convention, proceeded with the work of forming an instrument to



be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them, and by means of a committee of conference, the same constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people, October 13, it was ratified. In the Republican wing the fourth district was represented by Charles McClure, Aaron C. Hudson, George Watson, Frank Mantor, Joseph Peckham. Edwin C. Stacy was the only one from this district sitting on the Democratic side. By the apportionment of 1857, set forth in the state constitution adopted March 13, Freeborn and Faribault counties were constituted the fourteenth senatorial district with one senator and three representatives.

1857-58.—The first state legislature assembled December 2, 1857. On March 25, 1858, it took a recess until June 2, and finally adjourned August 12. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by George Watson and in the house by James B. Wakefield, George B. Kingsley and A. H. Barlett. Watson and Barlett lived in Freeborn county.

1859-60.—The second state legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. George Watson represented the fourteenth district in the senate and G. K. Cleveland, Allen Shultis and T. W. Purdie in the house. Watson and Purdie were from Freeborn county. A. B. Webber appears to have been elected to the house in 1860, but there was no session of the legislature during the few months he was supposed to serve. By the apportionment of 1860, Freeborn, Steele and Waseca were constituted the sixteenth district with one senator and two representatives.

1861.—The third state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by George Watson, of Freeborn county, and in the house by James E. Child, of Waseca, and W. F. Pettit, of Steele.

1862.—The fourth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by A. B. Webber, of Freeborn county, and in the house by H. G. Magoon, of Steele, and P. C. Bailey, of Waseca. On account of the Indian outbreak an extra session was called by the governor, and it assembled September 9 and adjourned September 29.

1863.—The fifth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by M. A. Dailey and in the house by Asa Walker, of Carlston, and Philo Woodruff.

1864.—The sixth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 4. The sixteenth district was represented in



the senate by F. J. Stevens and in the house by Philo Woodruff and J. L. Gibbs. Gibbs lived in Geneva.

1865.—The seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The representatives from the sixteenth district were B. A. Lowell in the senate and J. L. Gibbs and J. B. Crooker in the house.

1866.—The eighth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by B. A. Lovell and in the house by J. B. Crooker and Augustus Armstrong. Armstrong was from Albert Lea. This legislature re-apportioned the districts, but Freeborn, Steele and Waseca remained the sixteenth.

1867.—The ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The representatives from the sixteenth district were Aug. Armstrong in the senate and W. H. Twiford, William Brisbane and James E. Smith in the house. Armstrong, Twiford and Smith were from Freeborn county.

1868.—The tenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. Augustus Armstrong represented the sixteenth district in the council and William R. Kenyon, James E. Smith and George A. La Dow in the house.

1869.—The eleventh state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The sixteenth district was represented in the council by J. B. Crooker and in the house by Augustus Armstrong, E. Easton and W. Smith.

1870.—The twelfth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. J. B. Crooker represented the sixteenth district in the council and W. C. Young, H. W. Rulliffson and A. C. Wedge in the house. A. C. Wedge was from Albert Lea.

1871.—The thirteenth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 3. The sixteenth district was represented in the senate by W. H. Young and in the house by William Brisbane, A. C. Wedge and F. B. Davis. This legislature re-apportioned the districts, and for the first time Freeborn county constituted a district by itself, called the fifth, with one senator and two representatives. Although the number had been changed, Freeborn county has since continued to be a separate district.

1872.—The fourteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. H. D. Brown represented the fifth district in the senate and E. D. Rogers and William Wilson in the house. Brown was from Albert Lea, Wilson from Twin Lakes and Rogers from Freeborn village.

1873.—The fifteenth legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. T. J. Johnsrud represented the fifth in the senate and J. W. Devereaux and E. D. Rogers in the house.

1874.—The sixteenth legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The fifth district was represented in the senate by T. J. Johnsrud and in the house by Evan Morgan and Warren Buell.

1875.—The seventeenth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The fifth district was represented in the senate by Thomas H. Armstrong and in the house by Henry Tunell and Richard Fitzgerald.

1876.—The eighteenth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The fifth district was represented in the senate by Thomas H. Armstrong and in the legislature by Henry Tunell and J. L. Gibbs.

1877.—The nineteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The fifth district was represented in the senate by Thomas H. Armstrong and in the house by J. L. Gibbs and H. G. Emmons. J. L. Gibbs was speaker of the house.

1878.—The twentieth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. Thomas H. Armstrong represented the fifth district in the senate and H. G. Emmons and T. W. Purdie in the house.

1879.—The twenty-first legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. A. C. Wedge represented the fifth district in the senate and S. N. Frisbie and Hans Christopherson in the house. This legislature made provisions for biennial sessions thereafter.

1881.—The twenty-second legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fifth district was represented by A. C. Wedge in the senate and Bennett Asleson and A. F. Denby in the house. An extra session was called to consider legislation in regard to the state railroad bonds. The session commenced October 11 and closed November 13. A. M. Johnson represented the fifth district in the house in place of A. C. Wedge. By the apportionment of 1881, Freeborn county was made the fourth district with one senator and two representatives.

1883.—The twenty-third legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The fourth district was represented in the senate by W. P. Sergeant and in the house by L. T. Bell and Ole Peterson (Slette).

1885.—The twenty-fourth legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The fourth district was represented in the senate by W. P. Sergeant and in the house by John L. Gibbs and Alexander Haraldson. J. L. Gibbs was speaker of the house.

1887.—The twenty-fifth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fourth district was represented in the senate by M. Halvorson and in the house by C. G. Johnsrud and Thomas Dunne.



1889.—The twenty-sixth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. M. Halvorson represented the fourth district in the senate and D. F. Morgan and Ellend Erickson in the house.

1891.—In 1889 the state was re-apportioned, but the fourth district remained unchanged. The twenty-seventh legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 20. H. C. Nelson represented the fourth district in the senate and Ellend Erickson and I. E. Starks in the house.

1893.—The twenty-eighth legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. H. C. Nelson represented the fourth district in the senate and William Christie and John W. Geissler in the house.

1895.—The twenty-ninth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The fourth district was represented in the senate by T. V. Knatvold and in the house by John L. Gibbs and John M. Geissler.

1897.—The thirtieth legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 21. The fourth district was represented in the senate by T. V. Knatvold and in the house by John G. Johnson and H. Drommerhausen. By the apportionment of this year, Freeborn county became the ninth district, with one senator and two representatives as before.

1899.—The thirty-first state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. T. V. Knatvold represented the ninth district in the senate and Gunvold Johnsrud and W. W. Galt in the house.

1901.—The thirty-second legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 12. The ninth district was represented in the senate by T. V. Knatvold and in the house by Gunvold Johnsrud and W. W. Galt. An extra session to consider the report of the commission assembled February 4, 1902, and adjourned March 11.

1903.—The thirty-third legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 12. The ninth district was represented in the senate by Henry A. Morgan and in the house by Ole I. Opdal and William Wohlhuter.

1905.—The thirty-fourth legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. Henry A. Morgan represented the ninth district in the senate and Ole I. Opdal and William Wohlhuter in the house.

1907.—The thirty-fifth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 24. The ninth district was represented by B. N. Anderson in the senate and J. C. Johnson and T. E. Noble in the house.

1909.—The thirty-sixth legislature assembled January 5 and

adjourned April 22. The ninth district was represented in the senate by B. N. Anderson and in the house by T. E. Noble and William Wohlhuter.

1911.—The thirty-seventh legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 19. The ninth district was represented by B. N. Anderson in the senate and in the house by Alva Henion and H. H. Dunn, the latter serving as speaker.

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The first congressional district in which from the time of the admission of Minnesota as a state Freeborn county has been included, has been represented in congress as follows: J. A. Cavanaugh, Democrat, March 12, 1859, to March 4, 1859; William Windom, Republican, March 4, 1859, to March 4, 1869; Morton S. Wilkinson, Republican, March 4, 1869, to March, 1871; Mark H. Dunnell, Republican, March 4, 1871, to March 4, 1883; Milo White, Republican, March 4, 1883, to March 4, 1887; Thomas Wilson; Democrat, March 4, 1887, to March 4, 1889; Mark H. Dunnell, Republican, March 4 1889, to March 4, 1891; W. H. Harries, Democrat, March 4, 1891, to March 4, 1893; James A. Tawney, Republican, March 4, 1893, to March 4, 1911; Sidney A. Anderson, progressive Republican, March 4, 1911, to March 4, 1913.

Until Minnesota became a state it had only one representative in congress, a territorial delegate, who was not allowed to vote. The first territorial delegate from Minnesota was Henry H. Sibley, who was first sent ostensibly as a delegate from the territory of Wisconsin, though living on the present site of Mendota at the mouth of the Minnesota river. He sat as a territorial delegate from January 15, 1849, to December 5, 1853. He was succeeded by Henry M. Rice, who served until December 7, 1857. W. W. Kingsbury was elected to succeed him and served until December 6, 1858. As has been noted, the United States senate February 23, 1857, passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a constitution preparatory to their admission to the Union. In accordance with the provisions of this enabling act, a constitutional convention was held July 13, 1857, at the territorial capital. October 13, 1857, an election was held when the constitution was adopted and a full list of state officers elected. Three congressmen were also elected at this time: George L. Becker, W. W. Phelps and J. M. Cavanaugh. But it was afterward found that Minnesota was entitled to only two congressmen and the matter was amicably adjusted by the withdrawal of Mr. Becker. By this election the Messrs. Phelps and Cavanaugh became the first members of congress from the state of Minnesota.

In the winter of 1857-58 the legislature divided the state into



two congressional districts, the southern part becoming the first congressional district and the northern part the second, Freeborn county thus becoming a part of the first congressional district. By the apportionment of 1872, the state was divided into three congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Winona, Houston, Olmsted, Fillmore, Dodge, Steele, Mower, Freeborn, Waseca, Faribault, Blue Earth, Wartonwan, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock.

By the apportionment of 1881 the state was divided into five congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha.

By the apportionment of 1891 the state was divided into seven congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

By the apportionment of 1901 the state was divided into nine congressional districts. This apportionment has continued to the present day. The first district now consists of the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

## CHAPTER XI.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

**First Board of County Commissioners Organizes—The Supervisor System—Doings of the Early Boards—Complete List of Elective County Officers—County Seat Contest—Court House, Jail and Poor Farm—County Ditches.**

The history of the government of Freeborn county begins with an election held some time in 1856, at the home of William Andrews, on the line between Shell Rock and Hayward. At this election twenty-four votes were cast. No county affairs, however, were voted upon at that time.

In the spring of 1857 the territorial legislature passed an act authorizing the organization of Freeborn county, which had been created February 20, 1855. In pursuance with this act the governor, after consulting with various persons interested in the county, appointed William Andrews, E. C. Stacy and S. N. Frisbie commissioners, Samuel M. Thompson register of deeds and Thomas C. Thorne treasurer. The commissioners were directed to meet, appoint officers, name a temporary county seat and transact other business. The register of deeds was to perform, in addition to the duties of that office, those now performed by the auditor, and was also to be clerk of the board of county commissioners. Mr. Thompson never served. William Morin assumed the duties of the office as deputy, and at the second meeting of the commissioners was appointed register of deeds in place of Mr. Thompson.

The first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners appointed by Governor Gorman was held at the home of George S. Ruble, in the village of Albert Lea, March 3, 1857, for the purpose of organization. The board consisted of William Andrews, E. C. Stacy and S. N. Frisbie. William Andrews was chosen chairman. On motion of Mr. Frisbie, E. C. Stacy was chosen judge of probate. At an adjourned meeting on the fourth the county officers were appointed as follows: Sheriff, George S. Ruble, of Albert Lea; surveyor, Edward P. Skinner, of Shell Rock city; coroner, A. H. Bartlett, of Shell Rock city; district attorney, John W. Heath, of Geneva. The county was divided into three assessors' districts, and the following assessors appointed: James M. Drake, John Dunning and Walter Stott; justices of





OSCAR SUBBY





the peace, Isaac P. Lynde and George Watson; constables, George Giles, George Dearmin, William A. Hoag and Walter Stott. At this meeting a county seal was ordered, and the time for entering upon their duties by the several officers appointed was placed on the twentieth of that month. The location of the county seat came up for careful consideration. Mr. Frisbie moved that the temporary county seat be Bancroft; Mr. Stacy moved to strike out Bancroft and insert Saint Nicholas, which motion was lost. Mr. Stacy moved to strike out the word Bancroft and insert Geneva, which was not agreed to. Mr. Andrews moved to strike out the word Bancroft and insert Albert Lea, which was carried by a unanimous vote. A resolution was adopted instructing the constables, justices and school trustees to be vigilant in protecting the school lands from trespass. At an adjourned meeting on the fifth among other items of business, L. T. Carlson was appointed justice of the peace, and Elias Stanton constable. At these meetings William Morin was deputy clerk. The next meeting of the board was April 6, 1857, and then the interminable road business began. The first road laid out as a county road was described as follows: "Commencing on the section line between thirty-two and thirty-three in town 101, range 20, running north as near said section line as the surface of the ground will admit, through towns 101, 102 and 103 (Shell Rock, Hayward and Riceland), thence in a northerly direction to the town of Geneva, thence north to the county line." Clark Andrews, of Shell Rock, and George P. Hoops were appointed viewers of the route. At this meeting the appointments of L. T. Carlson as justice of the peace, and Elias Stanton as constable, were rescinded for non-compliance with the statute; and Elias Stanton was appointed justice, and Charles Giddings, constable.

The first school district was laid out as follows: Sections 33, 34, 35 and 28 and the southwest quarter of section 27, in township 103, range 19, now Moscow. The first election precinct was also established as follows: Townships 103 and 104, ranges 22 and 23, now known as Freeborn, Carlston, Mansfield and Hartland. This meeting was continued until the tenth.

The third session of the board was on May 18, 1857, and continued three days. Welcome S. Bacon was appointed assessor of the first precinct, vice Erastus D. Porter, not qualified. C. S. Tarbel was appointed coroner in place of George Watson, who declined to qualify. Lafayette Scott was appointed justice and Daniel Davis, constable. At this session the table was loaded with road petitions, which were given respectful consideration. The fourth session of the board was on July 6, and road matters were again considered. The assessment rolls were brought in at this meeting, and the footings were as follows: District No. 1.



real, \$31,295; personal, \$20,590. District No. 2, real, \$28,065; personal, \$35,840. District No. 3, real, \$53,553; personal, \$40,665. Total, \$210,008. A tax of three mills on the dollar was assessed for road purposes, and two and one-half mills for school purposes. At this meeting the county orders appeared for the first time and they aggregated \$549.19. The fifth session of the county board was on September 9, of the same year. The clerk of the district court was instructed to inform Judge Flandreau that it is not the wish of the county commissioners that a court should be held here in October of this year.

Thus the wheels of county government were set in motion. In October, 1857, the first general election in the county was held at the various precinct voting places, and 642 votes were cast. The result was as follows: Register of deeds, William Morin; treasurer, Henry King; sheriff, J. W. Heath; probate judge, A. W. White. clerk of court, E. P. Skinner; surveyor, H. D. Brown; coroner, A. M. Burnham; commissioners, S. N. Frisbie, Joseph Rickard and Peter Clausen. Albert Lea was selected as the county seat.

This board of commissioners assembled Jan. 4, 1858, and served until June of the same year, S. N. Frisbie being the chairman. These early boards created road, school and assessors' districts, named the towns and transacted much important business.

**Supervisor System.** In 1858, Minnesota being provided with a state constitution, there began an era which in this state continued but a short time. that of county government by a board of supervisors consisting of the chairmen of the different townships and representatives from the incorporated settlements. The new law was passed by the legislature on March 20, 1858.

The first board of supervisors in Freeborn county, variously called the "court" and the "legislature," assembled at Albert Lea, June 7, 1858. The authorized members of the board were: William Andrews, Shell Rock; Theop. Lowry, Moscow; E. C. Stacy, Geneva; Isaac Baker, Riceland; E. J. Boardman, Hartland; C. D. Giddings, Freeborn; A. C. Wedge, Albert Lea; A. W. White, Pickerel Lake; Mathias Anderson, Manchester; Patrick Fitzsimmons, Nunda. Stacy was appointed chairman. Asher, later known as Liudon and still later as London, had been authorized to organize, but as the organization was not perfected, no member sat from that town. Stanton, now Carlston, had not been authorized to organize, but the voters having met on May 11, 1858, and elected a town board, H. W. Allen was given a seat on the county board. David Blakely presented himself with papers from Bancroft. His right to a seat was questioned on account of change of residence, but he was finally allowed to serve for a while. Later his removal to Austin became an accom-



plished fact and J. Q. Fitzgerald was given his seat on both township and county boards.

**1859.** The board met in annual session September 13, with members as follows: William N. Goslee, London; Asa Bullock, Oakland; Theophilus Lowry, Moscow; M. Brennan, Newry; Edwin C. Stacy, Geneva; Isaac Baker, Riceland; J. W. Devereaux, Hayward; A. C. Wedge, Albert Lea; N. H. Ellickson, Bancroft; Horace Green, Bath; W. C. Cram, Hartland; Mathias Anderson, Manchester; Patrick Fitzsimmons, Nunda; E. D. Rodgers, Freeborn. Edwin C. Stacy was elected temporary chairman and Theop. Lowry permanent chairman. Thomas Forde presented himself as the member from Springfield (early called Stanton and Groton, now Carlston), with the explanation that Asa Walker, the rightful representative from that town was ill. Later Mr. Walker took his seat. Walter Stott was the member from Shell Rock, but neglected to attend the first session.

**Commission System.** In 1860, the state returned to the commission system, which has since been in vogue. The county had been divided into three districts as follows: 1, Hartland, Porter (Bath), Geneva, Newry, Moscow and Riceland. 2, Albert Lea, Hayward, Oakland, Lindon (London) and Shell Rock. 3, Freeborn, Carlston, Manchester, Bancroft, Pickerel Lake, Nunda, Mansfield and Alden. The board which organized June 4 consisted of George W. Skinner, Asa Walker and William N. Goslee, the latter being chairman.

Since that date the boards of county commissioners have been as follows:

1861—James E. Smith (chairman), John Reed and Asa Bullock.

1862, 1863 and 1864—Asa Bullock, William White and C. H. McIntyre. Asa Bullock died in office.

1865—C. H. McIntyre, William White and Clark Andrews.

1866—Clark Andrews, William White and James F. Jones.

1867—William White, James F. Jones and J. W. Devereaux. The county now being entitled to five commissioners, the board of 1867 made the following division of commissioners' districts: 1, Geneva, Bath, Hartland and Freeborn. 2, Newry, Moscow, Oakland and London. 3, Riceland, Bancroft, Manchester and Carlston. 4, Pickerel Lake, Albert Lea, Hayward and Shell Rock. 5, Alden, Mansfield, Nunda and Freeman.

1868—Mons Grinager, Stephen N. Frisbee, Henry A. Ostrander, J. W. Devereaux and William H. Moore.

1869—Same as the previous year.

1870—Mons Grinager, Adam Christie, Henry A. Ostrander, Jedediah W. Devereaux and William H. Moore.

1871—Mons Grinager, Henry A. Ostrander, Adam Christie, H. G. Emmons and J. W. Devereaux.

1872—James Thoreson, Henry A. Ostrander, Adam Christie, H. G. Emmons and J. W. Devereaux.

1873—H. G. Emmons, James Thoreson, Hans Christopherson, Halvor Thompson and J. W. Devereaux.

1874—H. G. Emmons, H. Christopherson, W. C. Lincoln, Halvor Thompson and James Thoreson.

1875—Same as previous year.

1876—H. G. Emmons, W. C. Lincoln, James Thoreson, W. N. Goslee and Ole Hanson.

1877—William N. Goslee, James Thoreson, John M. Geissler, Ole Hanson and W. W. Johnson.

1878—J. M. Geissler, W. W. Johnson, W. N. Goslee, R. Fitzgerald and I. A. Rodsater.

1879—John M. Geissler, W. W. Johnson, W. N. Goslee, R. Fitzgerald and I. A. Rodsater.

1880—R. Fitzgerald, W. N. Goslee, I. A. Rodsater, J. M. Geissler and C. W. Ballard.

1881—I. A. Rodsater, J. M. Geissler, W. N. Goslee, D. N. Gates and E. C. Johnson.

1882—D. N. Gates, I. A. Rodsater, J. M. Geissler, E. C. Johnson and Michael O'Leary.

1883—Michael O'Leary, I. A. Rodsater, E. C. Johnson, T. W. Wilson and D. N. Gates.

1884—D. N. Gates (chairman), Thomas W. Wilson, Michael O'Leary, Knud Ingebrigtsen and E. C. Johnson.

1885—D. N. Gates, E. C. Johnson, Thomas W. Wilson (chairman), Knud Ingebrigtsen and William Christie.

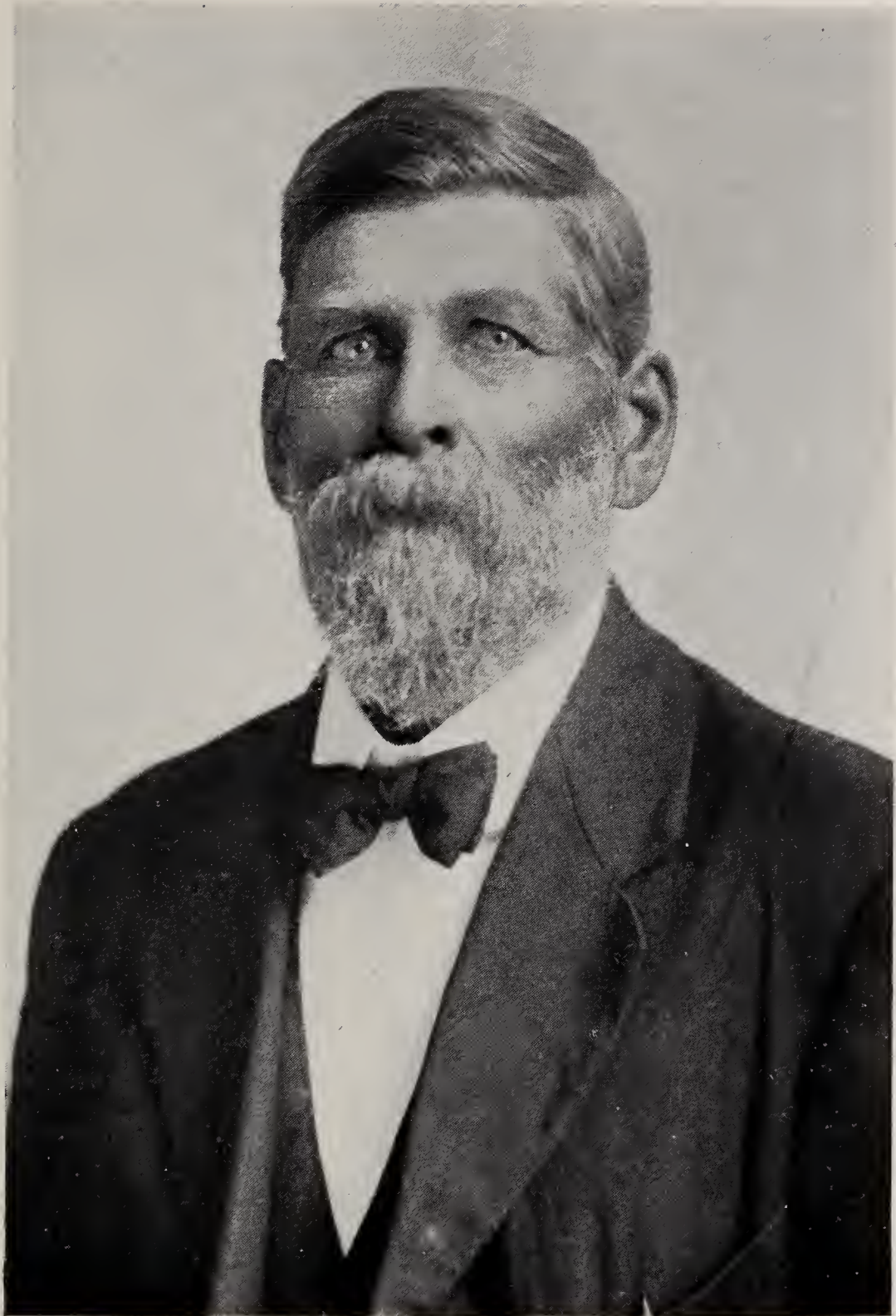
1886—D. N. Gates, E. C. Johnson, William Christie, Knud Ingebrigtsen and Harrington Austin.

By an act of the legislature of 1885, the terms of all county commissions expired on the last day of December, 1886. In the fall of 1886, the people of Freeborn county elected five commissioners who took office January 1, 1887. Those from the first, third and fifth districts were to serve two years and those from the second and fourth districts were to serve four years. At the expiration of the three short terms, all commissioners were to serve four years. Under this plan, which is still in vogue, the makeup of the county board can change but once in two years, except in cases of death, resignation or removals.

1887—T. A. Helvig, William Christie, Knud Ingebrigtsen, William Morin and Louis Marpe. At the death of William Morin, R. C. Van Vechten was named in his place.

1889—William Christie, T. A. Helvig, R. C. Van Vechten, Louis Marpe and N. T. Sandberg. Owing to his removal from the





OLE HAMMER





county, Van Vechten never sat on this board. W. A. Morin was appointed in his place.

1891—T. A. Helvig, Louis Marpe, N. T. Sandberg, C. J. Kennevan and Thomas W. Wilson.

1893—1, Carl Hendrickson; 2, C. J. Kennevan; 3, N. T. Sandberg; 4, John C. Ross; 5, Ole I. Opdahl.

1895—1, Carl Hendrickson; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, N. T. Sandberg; 4, John C. Ross; 5, Ole I. Opdahl. In the fall of 1895, T. W. Wilson took the seat vacated by John C. Ross.

1897—1, G. P. Lattin; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, Ole Hammer; 4, Axel G. Brundin; 5, Ole I. Opdahl.

1899—1, George P. Lattin; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, Ole A. Hammer; 4, A. G. Brundin; 5, Ole I. Opdahl.

1901—1, George P. Lattin; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, Ole A. Hammer; 4, A. G. Brundin; 5, L. P. Wohlhuter.

1903—1, John C. Johnson; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, O. A. Hammer; 4, A. G. Brundin; 5, L. P. Wohlhuter.

1905—1, John C. Johnson; 2, E. W. Gleason; 3, O. A. Hammer; 4, A. G. Brundin; 5, J. H. J. Seedorf.

1907—1, John C. Johnson; 2, J. J. Hove; 3, O. A. Hammer; 4, Frank A. Thompson; 5, J. H. J. Seedorf.

1909—1, M. Fitzgerald; 2, J. J. Hove; 3, O. A. Hammer; 4, Frank A. Thompson; 5, H. A. Emmons.

1911—1, M. Fitzgerald; 2, J. J. Hove; 3, O. A. Hammer; 4, F. A. Thompson; 5, H. A. Emmons.

The districts are now divided as follows: 1, Freeborn, Hartland, Bath, Geneva and Newry. 2, London, Shell Rock, Oakland, Moscow and Hayward. 3, Carlston, Manchester, Bancroft, Rice-land and Albert Lea (township). 4, Albert Lea (city). 5, Alden, Mansfield, Nunda, Pickerel Lake and Freeman.

### COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The principal officers of Freeborn county since March 3, 1857, are given in the list which follows. In a few instances the compilers have omitted the names of those appointed for very short terms to fill vacancies caused by illness, death or removal, their official service being so short as to be foreign to the ground which this volume aims to cover.

**Register of Deeds.** Up to 1861, the register of deeds performed the duties of auditor and clerk of the board of county commissioners as well. Samuel M. Thompson was appointed to the office in March, 1857, by Governor Gorman. He never served. William Morin acted as his deputy a few days, and was then appointed to the place by the county commissioners. He was elected in October, 1857, and served until 1862. John Wood served from 1862 to 1872, August Peterson from 1872 to 1878 and Ole O.

Simonson served from 1878 until his death in September 1881. After his death came Jens Hanson, September, 1881 to 1884; Victor Gillrup, 1884 to 1889; Hans R. Fossum from 1889 to his death, October 28, 1891; Thomas W. Wilson from November, 1891, to January 1, 1893; Emil Nelson from 1893 to 1897; Robert Anderson from 1897 to 1907; C. M. Wilkinson from 1907 to January, 1911; C. T. Helgeson from January 1, 1911, to the present time.

**Auditor.** Until 1861, the duties of this office were performed by the register of deeds, who was William Morin. Since then the auditors have been: E. C. Stacy, from 1861 to 1865; C. C. Colby, from 1865 to 1867; E. C. Stacy, from 1867 to 1869; Samuel Bachelder, from 1869 to 1877; then William Lincoln, after whom came Giles Q. Slocum, who served until March 1, 1883. Since then the auditors have been: C. O. Barness, March 1, 1883, to July 16, 1888; W. A. Higgins, July 16, 1888, to January 1, 1899; I. L. Ingbritsen, January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1907; Charles E. Brainerd, January 1, 1907, to the present time.

**Treasurer.** T. C. Thorne, from March, 1857 to 1858; Henry King, from 1858 to 1860; Ole I. Ellingson, from 1860 to 1862; J. E. Smith, from 1862 to 1866; D. G. Parker, from 1866 to 1868; Charles Kittleson, from 1868 to 1880; Frank W. Barlow, March 1, 1880, to January 1, 1887; F. B. Fobes, January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1893; H. A. Hanson, January 1, 1893, to January 1, 1899; B. N. Anderson, January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1907; S. S. Tveit, January 1, 1907, to the present time.

**Probate Judge.** E. C. Stacy, from March 1857 to 1858; A. W. White, from 1858 to 1860; B. J. House, from 1860 to 1862; A. H. Bartlett, from 1862 to 1866; B. J. House, from 1866 to 1870; A. M. Tyrer, from 1870 to 1872; G. Gulbrandson took office in 1872 and was followed by James H. Parker, who served until January 1, 1880. Then came Ira A. Towne, January 1, 1880, to January 1, 1884; Heman Blackmer, January 1, 1884, to January 1, 1889; W. C. McAdams, January 1, 1889, to September 1, 1890; Heman Blackmer, September 1, 1890, to January 1, 1909; A. U. Mayland, January 1, 1909, to the present time.

**Sheriff.** Geo. S. Ruble, from March, 1857 to 1858; John W. Heath, from 1858 to 1860; J. A. Robson, from 1860 to 1862; R. K. Crum, from 1862 to 1864; Leander Cooley, from 1864 to 1866; A. W. St. John, from 1866 to October, 1867; John Brown-sill, from October, 1867 to 1868; E. D. Porter, from 1868 to 1872; T. J. Sheehan, from 1872 to January 1, 1884; Jacob Larson, January 1, 1884, to January 1, 1889; W. C. Mitchell, January 1, 1889, to January 1, 1901; Ole P. Fossum, January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1905; Oscar Subby, January 1, 1905, to the present time.

**Clerk of the Court.** A. Armstrong, who was appointed by Judge Chas. E. Flandrau, from August, 1857 to 1858; E. P. Skin-



ner, from 1858 to 1862; H. D. Brown, from 1862 to October, 1871; John Wood, from October, 1871 to 1873. Then came A. W. White, followed by George T. Gardner, who served until 1889. Since then the clerks have been: John Q. Annis, January 1, 1889, to January 1, 1901; Alfred S. Hayes, January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1909; Harvey A. Spencer, January 1, 1909, to the present time.

**County Attorney.** J. W. Heath, from March, 1857 to 1858. From that time until 1860 the office was not known to the law, it having been abolished by the adoption of the state constitution, and a district prosecuting attorney substituted, which office was held by Perkins, of Faribault. In 1860, the office having again been provided for, J. U. Perry held, by appointment, from March until December of that year. D. G. Parker, from December, 1860, to December, 1862; A. Armstrong, from 1862 to 1865; H. B. Collins, from 1865 to 1869; J. A. Lovely, from 1869 to 1873; A. G. Wedge, from 1873 to the election of John A. Lovely, who served until January 1, 1883. Since then the attorneys have been: John Whytock, January 1, 1883, to January 1, 1887; W. E. Todd, January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1891; H. A. Morgan, January 1, 1891, to January 1, 1899; R. S. Clements, January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1901; A. U. Mayland, January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1905; J. G. Skinner, January 1, 1905, to January 1, 1907; N. E. Peterson, January 1, 1907, to the present time.

**School Superintendent.** Up to July, 1865, no well defined management of schools existed. In speculating upon the best system, the legislature created first a town superintendency, then an examiner for each commissioner district, and lastly the present plan of one general superintendent for each county. Under this, S. Batchelder was appointed July, 1865, and served until 1869; E. C. Stacy, from 1869 to 1870; Henry Thurston, from 1870 to the election of Charles W. Levens. O. K. Haugen took office January 1, 1889, and was followed in 1891 by John W. Olsen, who served until January 1, 1901. Geo. P. Lattin was in office eight years and on January 1, 1909, Harold Dahlen took charge of the county schools and is still serving.

**Surveyor.** E. P. Skinner, from March, 1857 to 1858; H. D. Brown, from 1858 to 1869; C. C. Colby was elected to this office in the fall of 1859, and for the two subsequent terms, holding until 1864, when J. M. Tanner was appointed. From this time nobody seems to have aspired to the place until the fall of 1867, when Levi Pierce was invested with that honor and held until 1872. W. G. Kellar, from 1872 to 1874; H. C. Lacy, from 1874 to 1876; W. G. Kellar, from 1876 to January 1, 1880; Arthur Motzfeldt, January 1, 1880, to January 1, 1882; W. G. Kellar, January 1, 1882, to January 1, 1884; Isaac Botsford, January 1, 1884, to



January 1, 1887; W. A. Morin, January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1891; E. E. Remington, January 1, 1891, to January 1, 1893; Geo. M. Miller, January 1, 1893, to January 1, 1897; Frank H. Fisk, January 1, 1897, to the present time.

**Court Commissioner.** A. W. White held this in connection with the probate office, from August, 1858 to 1861; J. M. Drake, from 1861 to 1862; Samuel Eaton, from 1862 to 1874; B. H. Carter, from 1874 to 1876; R. V. Spicer, from January, 1876, to 1878; then John Anderson, Heman Blackmer and A. H. Bartlett. Since then the court commissioners have been: W. C. McAdams, January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1891; Rolla Farnsworth, January 1, 1891, to January 1, 1895; R. S. Clements, January 1, 1895, to January 1, 1897; G. U. Barck, January 1, 1897, to January 1, 1901; D. K. Stacy, January 1, 1901, to the present time, the one elected in 1910 not having qualified.

**Coroner.** C. S. Tarbell, from April, 1857 to 1858, in place of George Watson, who failed to qualify. At the general election of 1857, Dr. A. M. Burnham was chosen to this office, but he did not qualify, and it stood vacant for a period of ten years. Geo. S. Ruble was elected in 1861, but did not serve; Samuel Eaton, from 1868 to 1872; W. W. Cargill, from 1872 to 1874; N. H. Ellickson, from 1874 to 1876. In 1876 came John Froshaug, who was succeeded by Paul Jensen, W. H. Smith and J. P. Von Berg. Since then the coroners have been: H. H. Wilcox, January 1, 1891, to January 1, 1895; Clint. L. Luce, January 1, 1895, to January 1, 1901; F. Leslie Wilcox, January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1903; L. W. Spicer, January 1, 1903, to January 1, 1905; David Gordon, January 1, 1905 to the present time.

### COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS.

The most important epoch in all the history of Freeborn county was doubtless the location of the county seat, of which a brief review is of much interest. There were two contests. The first was in 1857—a free for all in which Albert Lea, Bancroft and St. Nicholas were the chief factors, though Freeborn and Shell Rock City—now Glenville—received a few votes just for appearance sake.

The county commissioners appointed by the governor had organized the county on March 3, 1857, at the home of George S. Ruble, 522 Bridge street, Albert Lea, and had designated that village as the temporary seat of government. Never in the history of the county has the voter taken such a deep, profound interest in a canvass, and election as in this contest. He was coaxed, cajoled and implored, and if the shroud of secrecy could have been raised it would have revealed that not a few received their





C. T. HELGESON





pieces of silver. That fraud and corruption ran riot there can be no doubt, but which party was the worst none could tell.

An enumeration in June showed a population in the county of 2486, which at the time was condemned as far too large by conservative people. Albert Lea, which included the township, showed a population of 285, while at the close of this year the writer has a personal knowledge that the village contained but fourteen habitations and could not have had to exceed sixty souls, with not over ten families living on farms. The village at the close of the war in 1865 contained but forty habitations and could not have exceeded 200 people at that time. This same enumeration gave the number of voters as 960, 664 native and 296 naturalized. The election was held on October 13, 1857, and shows a total vote in the county of 642, as follows: Freeborn, 1 vote; Shell Rock, 10 votes; Saint Nicholas, 29 votes; Bancroft, 199 votes; Albert Lea, 403 votes.

Albert Lea has been spoken of as we were more familiar with its surroundings, but we would not have the reader infer she was more corrupt than Bancroft, as Bancroft's financial interests were wholly in the hands of a townsite company, mostly non-residents.

This coveted prize, however, was not to be so tamely given up, for in 1860 Itasca, a promising village only three miles north-west of Albert Lea, locked horns with her nearby rival. But the contest was short and decisive, for the county seat had her mechanism in even more perfect order than during her former contest, and Itasca was so overwhelmingly beaten there seems to be no record of the votes recorded.

An amusing feature of the county seat location of 1857 is well worth relating. A. H. Bartlett, of Shell Rock City, had been elected a representative to the legislature in the fall of this year, whom Albert Lea people greatly feared. A goodly subscription was taken up and E. C. Stacy, then of Geneva, was employed to hasten to St. Paul and see that Bartlett let the county seat alone, but when Stacy had gone they became more suspicious of him than of Bartlett, and it was at one time thought necessary to send Dr. A. C. Wedge there to watch them both. There were lighter hearts in Albert Lea when that legislature adjourned.

Of the six villages that fought for the county seat but three remain. Bancroft was the first to give up the ghost in a few months, her property was sold for taxes, soon passed into the possession of the county and has for many years been known as the site of the county poor farm.

St. Nicholas hung out some pretensions as a village until the breaking out of the Rebellion, but in May 1862 Ly Brand and Thompson, its founders, boxed up their goods and removed to



Alexandria, Minn., never again to view the scenes of their blasted hopes. They have both passed to the Great Beyond—Ly Brand in 1890, Thompson in 1907—both resting in the cemetery at Redwood Falls, Minn. William Eddy, the blacksmith, was the last to leave, and for forty-eight years it has been the site of a beautiful farm.

Itasca showed most wonderful vitality as nature had endowed her with a most beautiful site of unlimited, smooth prairie called "Paradise Prairie" by Albert Miller Lea, and a lovely scenery not equaled by the county seat; but she was deserted in 1864 by the last one of her original proprietors, C. C. Colby. She soon became known as a village only in memory, but should the city of Albert Lea grow out as in the last few years, she will ere long be the county seat by adoption. By Martin V. Kellar.

### COURT HOUSE, JAIL AND FARM.

**Court House and Jail.** The first board of county commissioners met at the home of George S. Ruble, 522 Bridge street, Albert Lea, March 3, 1857, and in spite of several contests, as related elsewhere, the seat of county government has always remained in Albert Lea. In the earliest days most of the county business was transacted near the corner of Clark street and Broadway. Dr. A. C. Wedge and William Morin, the latter the register of deeds, occupied an office on the west side of Broadway between Clark and William streets. Here the board meetings were held. Augustus Armstrong occupied a building just north of the Wedge-Morin office. E. C. Stacy occupied an office in a building on the southwest corner of Clark and Broadway. Other officers in the early days looked after county affairs in their own place of business at their residences. The supervisors, being a large body, met in the upper floor of the old Webber house. Court was also held there, and the attic at times was used as a jail.

In 1856, when the village of Albert Lea was platted, the present court house square was set aside for county purposes. In 1883, George S. Ruble attempted to regain possession of this square, but the courts held that so long as the square shall be used for county purposes, the title remains vested in the county, reverting to the heirs in case its use as a court house square shall be abandoned.

The matter of providing a county court house was considered at a very early date. The first official mention of the matter was made in September, 1857, when the people of St. Nicholas filed a \$10,000 bond to provide the county with a \$5,000 court house if that village was accepted as the county seat. A tract



known as Washington Park, platted as a public square, was also to be donated as the site of the proposed buildings.

While the county seat question was being agitated, in 1860, the leading citizens of Itasca, to secure, if possible, the county seat there, executed a bond in the penal sum of \$6,000, pledging themselves to build a court house according to certain plans and specifications, within two years, and also to furnish suitable offices for county purposes. The plan was a good one, giving good, large sized offices, jail room, and a court room twenty-four by twenty-eight feet, with suitable jury rooms. The parties who executed this bond were: A. M. Burnham, C. C. Colby, J. G. Sanborn, R. J. Franklin, E. D. Hopkins, Samuel Batchelder, Charles Dunbar, J. Dunbar, J. Colby, John Adams and J. S. Longworth. This was signed in the presence of Isaac Botsford and Hanibal Bickford, and certified to by Ole I. Ellingson, clerk, per Samuel Eaton, deputy.

The citizens of Albert Lea were not to be outdone. June 4, 1860, there was presented to the county board an offer from several citizens, agreeing to furnish free of charge, offices for the several county officials, a court room, a meeting place for the county board, and a jail, until better should be provided. This offer was signed by A. C. Wedge, George S. Ruble, Augustus Armstrong, Samuel Eaton and H. D. Brown. September 8, of the same year, a bond was executed making the same agreement, but specifying a time limit of three years. The signers were A. B. Webber, A. C. Wedge, A. Armstrong, William Morin, George S. Ruble, James A. Robson, H. D. Brown and John Brownsill.

In accordance with this agreement, the people of Albert Lea furnished court room, jail offices and suitable meeting places for county officials not only for three years, but until the fall of 1866, when the court house was completed. The men of Albert Lea, in 1860, started to build a log jail on court house square, but it was never completed and the logs were moved away.

Toward the close of the war the court house proposition began to be seriously considered. In March, 1864, a committee consisting of William Morin, Frank Hall, and Augustus Armstrong submitted plans and estimates for the construction of a fireproof building for offices and court room, as follows: Brick at \$6, \$1,320.00; fireproof roof, \$300.00; laying brick and furnishing lime, \$550.00; eight thousand feet of lumber at \$20, \$160.00; doors, nails, sash, glass and putty, \$400.00; carpenter work, \$300.00; plastering and lime, \$300.00; total, \$3,330.00. Various petitions were presented against the issue of bonds for county buildings. A resolution, however, was adopted to issue and appropriate bonds to the amount of \$2,000.00 toward erecting fireproof buildings for the county offices, with the understanding



that Albert Lea should appropriate \$1,000.00 to add a suitable hall for court purposes. Messrs. Hall, Morin, and Armstrong were appointed commissioners to sell the bonds and to erect the building. The first bond of \$1,500 was issued and cashed by Joseph Hall. It bore 10 per cent interest and was dated March 16, 1864. In July, 1864, the county board passed a resolution locating the county buildings on the west side of Broadway, north of William and south of Clark street, providing a title to the land could be secured without cost to the county. Later the commissioners decided to build on court house square. In June, 1865, James F. Jones, Asa Walker and E. P. Skinner were added to the building committee.

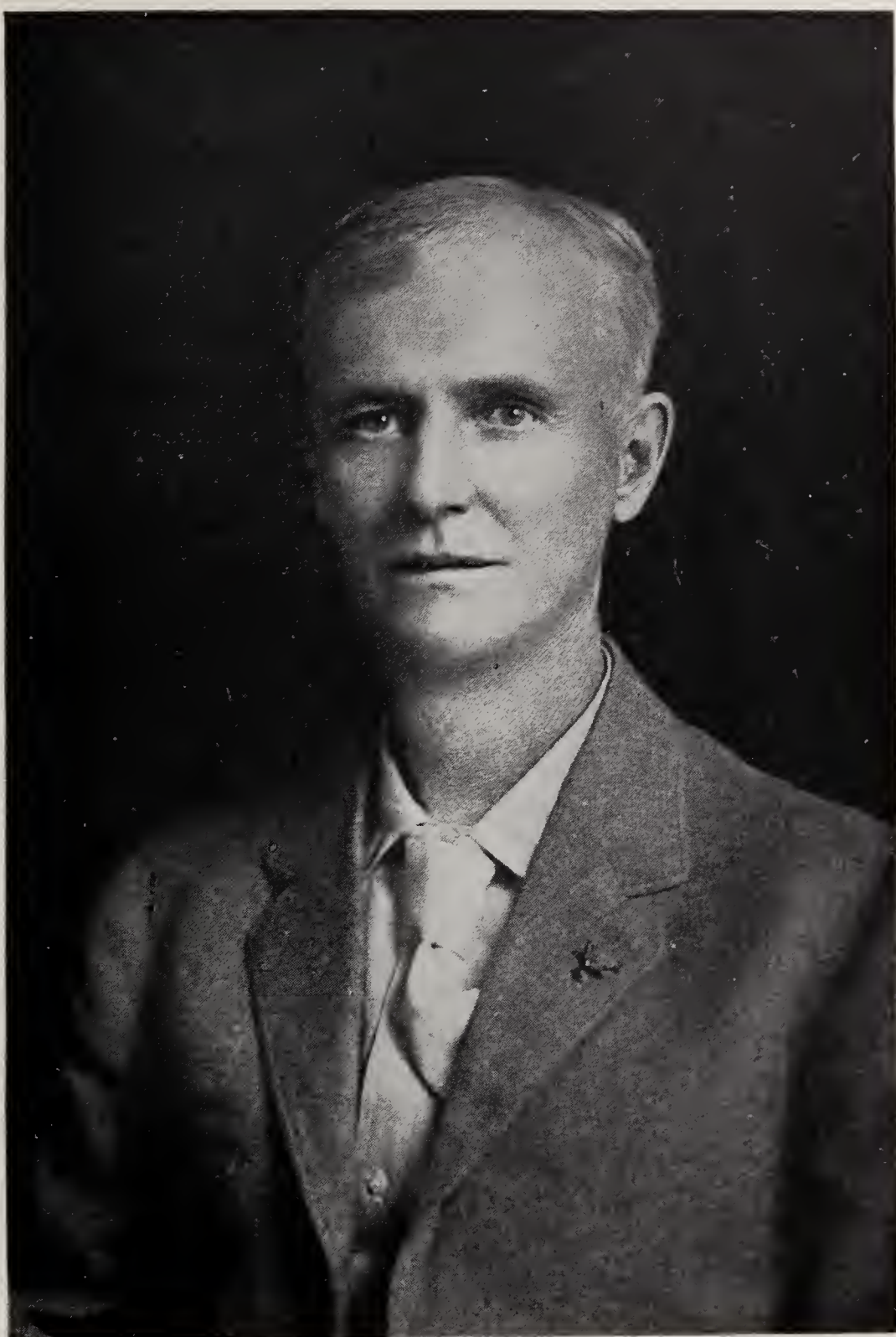
After many delays, the building was completed, being ready for occupancy in the fall of 1866. The building was located on the corner of Broadway and College street, the entrance being on the former street. The upper story which was used as a court room was completed at an expense of \$1,000 by the people of Albert Lea. The main floor contained the county offices, and the jail. The stairs to the court room lead from the hall in the back part of the building. Within a short time it was found that the brick of the upper story was crumbling. Considerable repairing was consequently done, and the entrance was placed on the outside of the building, leading from Broadway, to a portico which was built in front of the court room on the second story.

In 1875 a jail was erected on the corner of College and Newton street, on the same square. A sheriff's residence was later added, and improvements were made from time to time until the jail and residence assumed their present form.

In 1887 plans were set on foot for the building of a new court house, and after the completion of the present beautiful edifice, the old court building was torn down. At the completion of the new structure, the "Freeborn County Standard" published the following article:

"The contract for the building, after considerable competition, was let March 22, 1887, to Alexander McNeill, of this city, at \$55,785 and although he has made little, if any profit, he has done his work faithfully, skillfully and well. He sublet the stone and brick work to the late Thomas F. McCormick at \$35,500, and his share of the job, while under his control, was equally well done, and his sureties have in good faith completed it. He lost nearly \$10,000 on his contract, and this, together with exposure while engaged in the work, caused his death. The architect was A. C. Dunham, of Burlington, Iowa, and that his work is a conception of highest genius is evident and acknowledged by all familiar with it. The cost of the completed structure to the county, including steam heating, furniture, architect's





FRANK H. FISK





commission, expenses of meetings of county board, and all extras, is \$67,110.68. In addition is the loss to Mr. McCormick and his sureties, which brings the actual cost to a round sum of \$75,000, and it could not be duplicated for this sum. There has been no jobbery connected with this work, it has been honestly done, and many public buildings have been erected in the Northwest not nearly as good, which have cost a quarter or one-third more. The building was taken possession of by the county officers October 1, 1888, or a year and a half after work was begun on it."

When it was known that McCormick's bondsmen were to lose a considerable sum of money, a majority of the voters of the county petitioned the commissioners to reimburse them. Accordingly, D. R. P. Hibbs, representing the bondsmen received a check for \$7,000, which was used to repay the various sums which these gentlemen had expended in completing the building.

**County Poor Farm.** The county poor farm consists of 100 acres of good land, with suitable buildings in section 21, Bancroft township. The farm occupies the site of the old village of Bancroft. When that village was abandoned the county gradually acquired possession of the lots and blocks by reason of unpaid taxes. Some of the land thus acquired was sold, leaving the present 100 acres.

### **DRAINAGE DITCHES.**

Containing as it does much marsh land and many lakes, Freeborn county has been the scene of considerable public ditching since the passing of Chapter 258, of the general statutes in 1901. Under this act county ditch No. 1, in Freeborn township, county ditch No. 4, in Pickerel Lake township, and county ditch No. 5, in Nunda and Mansfield, were completed and preliminary steps were taken toward digging others. But the act of 1901 imposed many restrictions and the people of Freeborn county made strenuous efforts to have a more elastic law passed. Accordingly the legislature in 1905 enacted Chapter 230 of the general statutes. This new act greatly simplified the methods of procedure and gave a wider opportunity for the change and modification of plans as the proceedings developed, also making provision for the utilizing of old papers and proceedings in making new attempts to secure the establishment of ditches. The act also provided for the purchase of a right of way in other states, without which provision the construction of county ditch No. 18, which is now under way in Freeborn county, would have been impossible. Since the passing of this law one judicial ditch, nine county ditches and one private ditch have been established and three more are under way. A discussion of the methods of



procedure in the establishment of these ditches is beyond scope of this work. It is sufficient, for historical purposes, to give here the length and location of each ditch already built, the cubic yards removed in constructing each, the cost, the benefits assessed and the acres benefited. The twelve county ditches and one judicial ditch now completed in the county occupy a mileage of 99.40 miles; 2,801,567 yards of earth have been removed; the cost has been \$291,486; 29,545.03 acres have been benefited, and benefits have been assessed at \$681,470.15. Judicial ditch No. 1 drains Rice lake into Turtle creek, passing through Geneva, Riceland, Newry and Moscow. It is thirty-three miles long; 1,739,779 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$152,438.36; 16,124 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$417,227. County ditch No. 1 is in Freeborn township. It is 1.23 miles long; 14,244 yards were removed; the cost was \$2,444.65; 348 acres were benefited and benefits were assessed at \$6,896.65. No. 4 is in Pickerel Lake township. It is 3.11 miles long; 67,766 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$7,821; 578 acres were benefited and benefits were assessed at \$15,440. No. 5 is in Nunda and Mansfield townships. It is 4.26 miles long; 99,438 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$10,934.77; 1,299.88 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$27,061. No. 8 is in Bath township. It is 5.25 miles long; 77,881 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$10,657.69; 689 acres were benefited and benefits were assessed at \$12,617. No. 9 is in Manchester township. It is 5.80 miles long; 81,706 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$11,043.44; 1,043 acres were benefited and benefits were assessed at \$23,298.50. No. 10 is in Freeman township. It is eleven miles long; 145,740 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$19,143.53; 2,297 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$41,364. No. 11 is in Manchester township. It is 5.60 miles long; 50,162 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$7,765.49; 664 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$11,676. No. 12 is in Hayward and Oakland townships. It is 9.15 miles long; 212,584 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$28,179.90; 3,529.12 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$51,820. No. 14 is in Riceland and Hayward townships. It is 5.25 miles long; 112,013 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$15,300.51; 911 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$22,435. No. 15 is in Bancroft and Riceland townships. It is 3.40 miles long; 29,724 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$4,679.42; 418 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$8,430. No. 16 is in Albert Lea, Freeman and Shell Rock townships. It is 8.25 miles long; 126,904 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$14,121.76; 1,127 acres were benefited, and benefits were assessed at \$32,085. No. 17 is in Nunda



and Freeman townships. It is 4.10 miles long; 43,626 cubic yards were removed; the cost was \$6,956; 517 acres were benefited and benefits were assessed at \$11,120.

Three ditches are now under way. County ditch No. 18 in Mansfield and Nunda will connect with county ditch No. 5. County ditch No. 23 will be in Alden and Mansfield; and county ditch No. 24 in Pickerel Lake and Albert Lea. County ditch No. 20 is a short private ditch in Hayward.

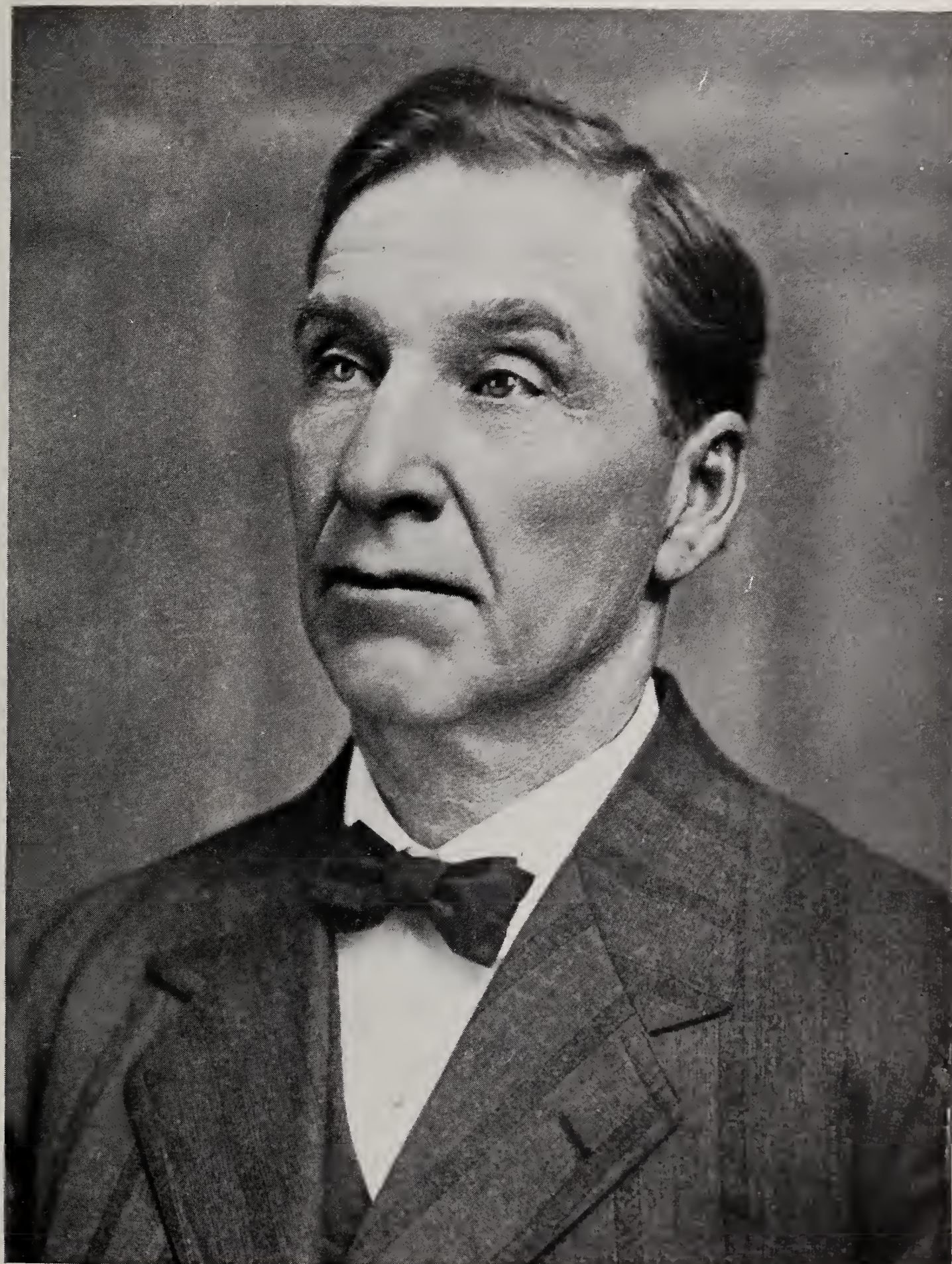
## CHAPTER XII.

### PIONEER SOCIETIES.

**Associations Which Have Been Formed to Perpetuate the Memories of the Early Days—Interesting Meetings Held—Freeborn County Old Settlers' Association, 1875 to 1882—Freeborn County Territorial Pioneers' Association, 1889 to 1911.**

The old settlers of Freeborn county who were desirous of perpetuating the memory of the hardships, the trials, troubles and privations on the one hand, and the pleasures and triumphs on the other, of pioneer times and frontier life, joined in a call to all those who came previous to 1860 to meet on July 12, 1875, for the purpose of organizing an Old Settlers' Association. In response to this call a meeting was held at the courthouse on the day mentioned. The assembly was called to order by D. G. Parker, who read the call that had been issued. On motion of John L. Melder, Mr. Parker was made temporary chairman. On motion of F. McCall, H. D. Brown was appointed secretary. On motion of Isaac Botsford, the following committee on resolutions was appointed: Henry Thurston, F. McCall and H. G. Emmons; on nominations, Isaac Botsford, John L. Melder and Jason Goward. The committee appointed for the purpose reported a constitution which, after discussion and amendment, was adopted. Its provisions were that any old settler could join by paying a nominal sum, who were here previous to January 1, 1859, and the limitation was to be advanced each year so that any one who had been a resident sixteen years can then join the association. The officers elected under this constitution were: President, D. G. Parker; vice-presidents, J. L. Melder, H. Bickford and O. C. Goodnature; secretary, Henry Thurston; treasurer, H. D. Brown; chaplain, Rev. S. G. Lowry; financial committee, Ole Peterson, J. W. Ayers and the president, secretary and treasurer, ex-officio. The constitution was then signed by thirty-nine persons: John L. Melder, J. Goward, S. Batchelder, Frank Ross, August Peterson, C. Narveson, L. R. Luce, Ole Narveson, R. Fitzgerald, J. W. Ayers, H. Bickford, N. I. Lothian, H. D. Brown, Ole Peterson, William English, John Colby, Frank Hall, David Horning, G. Gulbrandson, A. W. White, Charles Peterson, A. M. Burnham, Samuel Eaton, Isaac Botsford, A. J. Anderson, S. G. Lowry, C. Kittelson, Henry Emmons, F. McCall, E. D. Porter, E. D. Hop-





V. GULBRANDSON









MRS. V. GULBRANDSON





kins, S. P. Beighley, A. K. Norton, J. B. Gordon, T. J. Gordon, H. Thurston, D. G. Parker, Charles C. Ayers and Michael Sheehan.

The second meeting was held June 2, 1876, at the courthouse in Albert Lea. The opportunity was given for joining the society, and sixty-five persons signed the constitution, who had come here previous to January, 1860. Several amendments were presented and adopted, the most important of which was the appointment of a committee on obituary notices. The officers elected for the year were: President, D. G. Parker; vice-presidents, William N. Goslee, of London; D. R. Young, Shell Rock; N. I. Lowthian, Freeman; H. G. Emmons, Nunda; Henry Tunell, Mansfield; C. E. Butler, Oakland; Endre Gulbrandson, Hayward; I. Botsford, Albert Lea; J. H. Pace, Moscow; Lewis Bell, Riceland; William H. Long, Bancroft; E. D. Hopkins, Manchester; Asa Walker, Carls-ton; C. E. Johnson, Newry; J. F. Jones, Geneva; Richard Fitzpatrick, Bath; A. S. Purdie, Hartland, and Jason Goward, Freeborn; secretary, H. Thurston; treasurer, H. D. Brown; chaplain, S. G. Lowry; finance committee, Ole Peterson, J. W. Ayers, the president, secretary and treasurer. E. C. Stacy was appointed committee on the obituaries for the ensuing year.

The third meeting was June 13, 1877. A procession was formed and marched to the picnic ground in Albert Lea. Prayer was offered by Rev. Walter Stott, one of the pioneers of the county. Twenty-seven joined the association. The officers chosen this year were: President, E. C. Stacy; treasurer, H. D. Brown; secretary, Henry Thurston; and a vice-president from each town in the county. The finance committee with officers were J. L. Melder and J. W. Ayers.

The fourth annual meeting was on the second Friday in June, 1878.

The fifth annual reunion. This unusually interesting affair took place June 10, 1879, at Albert Lea. The officers elected for the year were: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary, Augustus Peterson; treasurer, Samuel Batchelder; and a vice-president for each town; financial committee, H. D. Brown, Henry Thurston, with the three executive officers. Committee on obituaries, H. Thurston. Col. Albert Miller Lea distinguished the meeting with his presence.

The sixth annual reunion was on July 8, 1880. The longest procession ever seen in this city started from in front of the courthouse at the appointed time. Two brass bands furnished the music, and the concourse proceeded to the grove north of Fountain Lake, where a varied program was carried out. Twenty-six joined the association this year. Hon. M. S. Wilkinson was the orator of the occasion, and quite a long historical letter was read from George S. Ruble. The following gentlemen were



chosen as officers for the year: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary, Augustus Peterson; treasurer, Samuel Batchelder; committee on obituaries, H. Thurston.

The seventh annual reunion was held in Albert Lea on June 14, 1881, and its features were not unlike those of previous years. The Fireman's band furnished the music, and the exercises were on the picnic grounds north of Fountain Lake. David Blakely, of Minneapolis, delivered the annual address. The officers for the year were: President, Francis Hall; secretary, Isaac Botsford; treasurer, D. G. Parker; committee on obituaries, H. Thurston, J. Goward, A. H. Bartlett, J. F. Jones, and S. N. Frisbie.

The eighth annual reunion occurred September 15, 1882, in the grove north of Fountain Lake. The officers for 1883 were: President, I. Botsford; secretary, H. D. Brown; treasurer, Gilbert Gulbrandson, and a list of vice presidents.

After this, there were few old settlers' meetings until the Territorial Pioneers organized in 1899.

### **TERRITORIAL PIONEERS.**

**The Association of Territorial Pioneers of Freeborn County.** The inception of this organization took place August 19, 1899, at the home of Dr. A. C. Wedge, who presided as chairman with G. Gulbrandson as secretary. The chair appointed a committee consisting of D. G. Parker and G. Gulbrandson to draft articles of association and to report them the following month at a meeting called for that purpose. September 26, 1899, the members of the association met at Johnson's hall and the articles of association were read, adopted and signed. The following were elected to serve at the regular meeting, as follows; A. C. Wedge, president; E. H. Ellickson, first vice-president; Rollof Thykeson, second vice-president; G. Gulbrandson, secretary; H. D. Brown, treasurer, and Dr. F. A. Blackmer, historian.

The first annual meeting of the Territorial Pioneers of Freeborn County was held at Knights of Pythias hall in Albert Lea, on May 11, 1900. Papers were read by A. C. Wedge and F. A. Blackmer, and a committee appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year. A. C. Wedge was elected president; Anthony C. Trow, vice-president; Rollof Thykeson, second vice-president; W. G. Kellar, secretary; H. D. Brown, treasurer. The president made the following appointments: Historian, F. A. Blackmer; members of the executive committee, E. H. Ellickson, D. K. Stacy, F. W. Barlow, John M. Geissler, M. M. Luce, Heman Blackmer and William H. Lowe.

May 10, 1902. At a meeting held in the grand jury room at the courthouse the following officers were elected: President, Dr. A. C. Wedge; secretary, C. N. Ruble; treasurer, C. B. Kellar.



It was announced that since the organization in 1899, death had removed two secretaries, G. Gulbrandson and William G. Kellar; the historian, Dr. F. A. Blackmer; and treasurer, H. D. Brown.

May 11, 1903, the next annual meeting was held in the grand jury room at the courthouse, and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. A. C. Wedge; vice-president, C. N. Ruble; secretary, C. B. Kellar.

May 11, 1904, the annual meeting was held in the city hall, and an obituary committee was appointed by the president. Officers for the ensuing year were elected with Dr. A. C. Wedge as president; C. N. Ruble, secretary, and C. B. Kellar, treasurer. A committee consisting of the president, secretary and treasurer was appointed to prepare papers for the following year. A committee was also appointed to consider the plan of erecting an "Old Settlers House" or "Headquarters" on the county fair grounds.

May 11, 1905, a regular meeting was held in the city hall and F. W. Barlow acted as secretary in the absence of C. N. Ruble. Officers for the coming years were elected as follows: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary, F. W. Barlow; treasurer, C. B. Kellar. President Wedge suggested a historian be selected from each town and they were appointed as follows: Hayward, M. M. Luce; Bancroft, George H. Prescott; Alden, A. K. Norton; Carlston, Mrs. John Larson; Albert Lea, John Godley; Shell Rock, A. W. Trow; Freeman, William Edwards; Nunda, John M. Geissler; Manchester, Thor Anderson; Albert Lea City, A. C. Wedge; Mansfield, J. M. Emerson. The president was instructed to select names of the historians for other towns. V. Gulbrandson, chairman of the committee of obituaries reported the following deaths having occurred since the last meeting: George Gardner, who came here in 1855, died September 23, 1904; Johanes Gulbrandson, came in 1857, died October 25, 1904; John Honan, came in 1857, died September 25, 1904; Mrs. Selina Stage, came in 1856, died April 7, 1905; M. O. Whitney, came in 1856, died October 24, 1904; Mrs. Ase Fossum, who came in 1856; L. J. Thomas, who came in 1857; Nels Nelson Wangen, who came in 1856; Mrs. Jorge Anderson, who came in 1857; Fred Fink, who came in 1856; Clark H. Dills, who came in 1857; Mrs. H. J. Pickard, who came in 1857; Ole O. Styve, who came in 1857 and L. W. Fay. V. Gulbrandson was appointed a committee to make an effort to secure the old log cabin erected in London by S. N. Frisbie, and to have same removed to the fair grounds to become the headquarters of the association.

May 11, 1906, the annual meeting was held in the city hall and all officers of the association were re-elected. V. Gulbrandson reported the following deaths which had occurred since the



last meeting of the association: Andrew Barlow, November 25, 1905; Charles N. Ruble, January 1, 1905; John Murphy, June 1, 1905; A. C. Trow, May 12, 1905; Daniel Hurd, October 14, 1905; Joseph A. Knapp, October 15, 1905; Mrs. O. Narveson, 1905; Mrs. O. Quenvold, 1905; Reuben Babcock, January 22, 1906; Simon Hanson, January 16, 1906; Mrs. Margaret Wedge Morin, February 11, 1906; Henry Thurston, March 5, 1906; Mrs. B. K. Winjum, March 14, 1906; Even A. Lybeck, March 16, 1906; Mrs. Anfin Anderson, May 9, 1906; Thomas Cashman, May, 1905; George W. Dearmin, June, 1905; Karl Tunell, June 22, 1905; Peter Shuger, July 16, 1905; Ole T. Haugen, August 5, 1905; Daniel Peterson, August 7, 1905; Knute Benson, September 13, 1905; Martha P. Clifton, February 20, 1906; Ole Madson, February 23, 1906; Mrs. Ole K. Morreim, March 12, 1906; Mrs. William Edwards, April 19, 1906.

May 11, 1907, the annual meeting was held in the Hotel Freeborn parlors and the election of officers resulted as follows: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary, F. W. Barlow; treasurer, C. B. Kellar. V. Gulbrandson read the following list of deaths of members of the association: Samuel Landis, pioneer of 1857, died May 15, 1906; S. B. Smith, 1857, died May 17, 1906; Henry Wyant, died July 25, 1906; Mrs. Lars Mickelson, died August 16, 1906; Mrs. Christian Pederson, 1857, died November 1, 1906; Mrs. K. T. Haugen, 1857, died November 27, 1906; Mrs. E. D. Stacy, 1856, died December 19, 1906; Capt. Asa White, 1856, died January 13, 1907; Mrs. John Dwyer, 1856, died January 20, 1907; Henry D. Blackmer, 1857, died January 27, 1907; John Beighley, 1857, died January 21, 1907; Mrs. Anthony Trow, 1856, died February 1, 1907; Nicholas T. Sandberg, 1858, died February 23, 1907; Mrs. Nels Walaker, 1856, died February 22, 1907; Charles Knapp, 1855, died April 6, 1907; Mrs. Simon Hanson, 1856, died April 19, 1907. On a motion a committee was authorized by the president to serve as committee of obituaries, consisting of the following: V. Gulbrandson, Mrs. John Larson, and F. W. Barlow.

On May 11, 1908 the association met in Odd Fellows hall in Albert Lea and the officers of the preceding year were re-elected. Twelve deaths had occurred since the last year's meeting, recorded as follows: Mrs. J. C. Frost, Jacob Baker, Henry Schneider, Joseph Landis, Ellen Thompson, Elmira Budlong, Edward Murphy, Milton M. Luce, Phillip Herman, John Hermanson, Mrs. John Hermanson, and Thomas Sutherland.

The next annual meeting was held in Odd Fellows hall at Albert Lea on May 11, 1909. The officers were elected as follows: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary, F. W. Barlow; treasurer, C. B. Kellar. The president appointed a committee to



locate and collect relics of pioneer days and this committee was made up of the following: J. E. Simms, M. V. Kellar and David Colvin. The deaths which had occurred during the past year were recorded as follows: Mrs. Elsie Lunde, Mrs. John Walaski and Thor Anderson.

May 11, 1910, the pioneers held their annual meeting in Odd Fellows hall, Albert Lea, and the following deaths were recorded: Andrew Severson Sjelve, pioneer of 1857, died June 7, 1909; Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald, 1858, died June 25, 1909; John Geissler, 1856, died July 28, 1909; Thomas Donovan, 1858, died September 1, 1909; Mrs. Henry Emmons, 1856, died February 1, 1910; Henry Emmons, 1856, died October 6, 1909; Mrs. Fred Fink, 1858, died January 1, 1910; John L. Melander, 1856, died December 17, 1909; Hans Olson Kjonas, 1856, died October, 1909; William H. H. Gordon, died May 17, 1909. It was suggested that the name be changed to "Territorial Pioneers and Old Settlers Association of Freeborn County," and that any person who has resided in the county for 35 years be eligible to membership. The officers of the preceding year were again elected. John A. Melander, who died this year, had previously been known as John A. Melder.

May 11, 1911, the annual meeting of the Territorial Pioneer Association was held in the Danish Brotherhood hall, Albert Lea, and the former officers were again elected and with them a vice-president, V. Gulbrandson. The committee of obituaries reported the following deaths of members of the association: Anastacia Barlow, pioneer of 1857, died November 2, 1910; Andrew O. Styve, 1857, died February 19, 1911; George H. Prescott, died February 19, 1911; Mrs. Mary Dudley, 1856, died March 15, 1911; William Beighley, 1856, died 1910; Mrs. Isadore Campbell, 1857, died August 24, 1910; Mrs. Patrick Farry, 1856, died January 10, 1911; Gulbrand Bagaasen, 1856, died October 29, 1910; Mrs. Harriet Barden, died September 25, 1910; James Lair, 1857, died October 13, 1911. A committee was appointed to arrange for an old settlers picnic to be held later in the season, which was composed of the following members, Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Kellar, D. C. Armstrong, Mrs. David Colvin, Mrs. Heman Blackmer, Mrs. John Godley, Mrs. Dan Horning, Mrs. Isaac Botsford and Bennett Porter.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

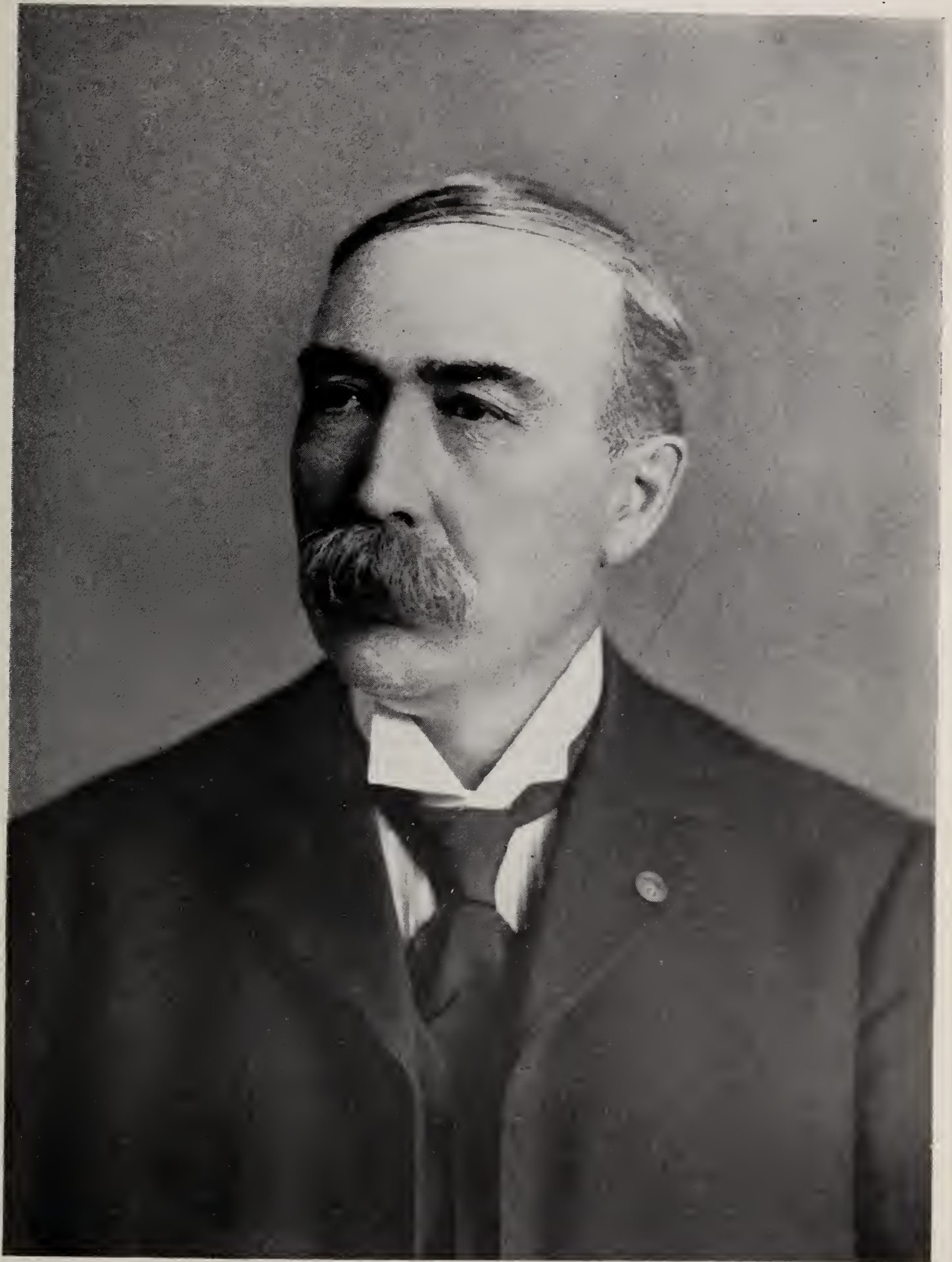
**Story of the Financial Institutions of the County—Location, Organization, Officers and Standing—Written by C. B. Kellar.**

The first effort of the pioneer was to secure his location and to there erect a habitation. The question of livelihood was one of immediate importance and no sooner was the pioneer and his family provided with a place to live, however poor or temporary, than he began to break the ground for crops. Mills for grinding the grain and sawing lumber were also an early necessity, and as there were many articles of daily need which the soil did not produce, the establishment of general stores could not long be delayed. But even in the most primitive community money is a vital need. The money lenders followed fast in the footsteps of the pioneer. Before long it became apparent that there must be some sort of an institution of financial exchange. Private banks were usually established as an adjunct of some other business. Some continued for a few years only, but others gradually assumed the importance of national or state institutions. This to a large extent is true of the early history of Freeborn county. Today the county is on a sound financial basis and the prosperity of the community is shown by the financial statements of the various banks which handle the money of the people at large. The county now has four national banks and fourteen state banks.

**The First National Bank** of Albert Lea is the pioneer bank of southern Minnesota. Starting as a private bank, it has grown to its present proud position. Its growth and prosperity has been contemporary with the growth and prosperity of Albert Lea. Its officers never lost sight of the fact that Albert Lea had a great future; that it was destined to be the metropolis of southern Minnesota, and they have been foremost in aiding any and every enterprise which would contribute to that end.

Beginning in a small way, when only a village of a few hundred inhabitants, the late Frank Hall started a small bank in the year 1867 in the corner of his store in the same building now occupied by the Irvin cigar store, giving it the name of the Banking House of Frank Hall, with C. B. Kellar as his cashier. He later built a one-story brick building on the corner now





C. B. KELLAR





occupied by the First National bank, moving his bank into this new building. Mr. Hall having so many kinds of business running at the same time, found it impracticable to give much of his time to the banking business and soon after moving into the new building, disposed of his interests to the late Hon. H. D. Brown, who ran the business as a private bank under the name of the Banking House of H. D. Brown, retaining Mr. Kellar as his cashier. The business continued increasing rapidly, when a few years later D. R. P. Hibbs, now the efficient president of the Albert Lea State bank, was taken in as a partner and the business continued in the same building under the name of H. D. Brown & Co., they retaining Mr. Kellar as their cashier.

In 1892 the H. D. Brown Company's bank was merged into the Albert Lea National bank, with H. D. Brown as president, D. R. P. Hibbs as vice-president and C. B. Kellar, cashier. It had a very successful period of ten years, paying large dividends at the beginning and the stock doubling in value, when it consolidated in February, 1902, with the First National bank, with Harry Jones, president; D. R. P. Hibbs and Vegger Gulbrandson, vice-presidents; C. B. Kellar, cashier, and Alfred Christopherson, assistant cashier, the combined capital and surplus of the two banks being \$120,000.

The latter bank was the one established by the late Hon. Gilbert Gulbrandson in September, 1886, and was very successful from the start. At the time of the consolidation Harry Jones was president; Vegger Gulbrandson, vice-president, and Alfred Christopherson, assistant cashier; the office of cashier had been vacated previously by the death of the late lamented August Paulson. In January, 1903, Harry Jones, president, and D. R. P. Hibbs, vice-president, resigned their official positions in the consolidated First National bank and C. B. Kellar was elected president; Vegger Gulbrandson, vice-president, and Alfred Christopherson, cashier.

The bank has been conservatively managed and the business has increased rapidly, as will be shown by the following comparative statements in periods of about ten years, more or less:

Report of condition September 21, 1872—Resources: Loans, \$5,554.37; banking house furniture and fixtures, \$3,738.85; cash and due from banks, \$6,485; revenue stamps, \$99.64; total, \$15,877.86. Liabilities: Capital, \$2,040.01; surplus and profits, \$926.08; deposits, \$12,911.77; total, \$15,877.86.

Report of condition May 27, 1881—Resources: Loans, \$43,605.31; banking house furniture and fixtures, \$2,653.59; cash on hand and in banks, \$40,888.41; total, \$87,147.31. Liabilities: Capital, \$19,250; surplus and profits, \$682.69; deposits, \$67,214.62; total, \$87,147.31.



Report of Condition May 25, 1892. Resources: Loans, \$131,629.41; U. S. bonds, \$14,562.50; real estate, furniture and fixtures, \$1,000.00; overdrafts, \$1,893.00; cash on hand and in banks, \$163,159.71; total, \$312,244.62. Liabilities: Capital, \$50,000.00; surplus and profits, \$1,192.94; deposits, \$249,801.68; circulation, \$11,250.00; total, \$312,244.62.

Report of condition July 15, 1908. Resources: Loans and discounts, \$661,862.68; overdrafts, \$1,890.56; U. S. bonds, \$152,600.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$30,000.00; (due from banks, \$171,077.14; cash on hand, \$39,569.51), \$210,646.65; total, \$1,056,999.89. Liabilities: Capital stock, \$100,000.00; surplus and profits, \$58,479.59; circulation, \$100,000.00; deposits, \$798,520.30; total, \$1,056,999.89.

The new home of the First National bank is modern in its equipment, is provided with the latest improved safes, fireproof vaults, with burglar alarm attachments, and carries a large line of burglar and hold-up insurance. In addition, its officers and employees are all heavily bonded, offering to its patrons the most perfect security in their dealings with the bank. Its directors are composed of the most careful and conservative business men that can be found in the city, men who have great faith in the future development and prosperity of the city, as is evidenced by the erection of the handsomest as well as the most commodious bank building to be found in Minnesota outside of the Twin Cities.

**C. B. Kellar**, the president of the bank, was born in Wisconsin, moved to Minnesota with his parents in 1856, settling on a farm near this city. After serving an enlistment in the army he attended Oberlin College and afterwards began work in the banking business where he has since continuously served for forty-four years, probably being the oldest banker in the state in point of service.

**Vegger Gulbrandson**, the vice-president, while not active in the management of the bank's affairs, adds much to its strength. He is one of the wealthiest residents of the county. Aside from his banking interests he has large farming interests, and also has many other investments in this city and county.

**Alfred Christopherson**, cashier of the First National bank of Albert Lea, Minn., is an Albert Lea boy, being born and raised in that city. On the completion of his school work he entered the employ of the First National as clerk, during the presidency of Gilbert Gulbrandson, and has been connected with the institution since being promoted to the position of cashier in 1903. He has been actively engaged in the banking business and has organized and is directing several of the smaller banks in the vicinity, holding the office of president in the State Bank of Clarks Grove and







*Wm. W. Miller*



in the State Bank of Oakland. He is also more or less identified with other financial institutions and has been the means of assisting several that are a credit to Albert Lea. He is a trustee and the treasurer of The Albert Lea College, one of the few educational institutions in the northwest that are devoted to the education of women only.

**The Citizens' National Bank, of Albert Lea.** In the month of February, 1893, T. V. Knatvold and H. N. Brown formed a co-partnership and organized a bank firm known as Knatvold & Brown, with a capital of \$10,000.00 paid up in cash. In the spring of 1894, C. L. Swenson was taken in by the firm and served as its cashier. They continued in business until in the spring of 1900 when they sold to one C. A. Ransom, who conducted the business as a private bank with C. A. Ransom as president and C. L. Swenson as cashier, A. C. Erickson, assistant cashier, and Alberta Mann, stenographer, until in the spring of 1902 when the bank was organized and incorporated into a national bank with a capital of \$50,000.00, surplus \$5,000.00, with the following officers: C. A. Ransom, president; B. H. Knatvold, vice-president; C. L. Swenson, cashier; A. C. Erickson, assistant cashier. In January, 1904, Edward Olson succeeded C. A. Ransom to the office of president, and the business of the bank has been conducted since the year 1904 with the following officers managing: Edward Olson, president; B. H. Knatvold, vice-president; C. L. Swenson, cashier; A. C. Erickson, assistant cashier; Alberta Mann, stenographer; A. C. Hartz and Oscar Olson, book-keepers.

From the establishment of the bank to the present time, it has at all times made a steady and healthy growth and today has a capital of \$50,000.00, with a surplus and undivided profits of \$17,929.95, and deposits aggregating \$562,967.34, with loans and discounts aggregating \$483,195.51; total figures of statement showing a footing of \$678,290.28.

**The Albert Lea State Bank** was organized May 16, 1902, and opened for business on that day as an entirely new institution—the first state bank to be opened under the state banking laws in Albert Lea—with a paid in capital of \$50,000.00, and with the following officers: D. R. P. Hibbs, president; V. Gillrup and F. W. Barlow, vice-presidents; D. C. Armstrong, cashier. For a number of months the bank occupied the Blackmer store building, or until the old First National bank building was purchased, and it then remodeled the front and extended the building in the rear to accommodate the business in proper form, and still occupies the building.

In 1909, at the June meeting of the directors, Mr. Hibbs resigned from active work, his desire being to be free to go and



come as he wished, as he intended spending his winters in the south. At this time, D. C. Armstrong, formerly cashier, was elected president and Mr. Hibbs made first vice-president, Mr. Barlow resigning. In 1904 it was found necessary to increase the office force, and H. F. Wittmer and A. F. Wohlhuter were elected assistant cashiers. On the election of D. C. Armstrong as president A. F. Wohlhuter was elected cashier, and in 1910 Mr. Wittmer left to take over the management cashiership of the bank at Kiester, Minnesota.

There have been few changes in the board of directors, and the bank has won a good business and standing in the city and county and today has its capital at \$50,000.00, surplus fund earned at \$10,000.00, the required amount, and has never passed a dividend period, having paid to the entire satisfaction of all stockholders, and the management feels justly proud of the record so made. Its savings department has grown steadily and the abstract business now occupies the time of one man entirely, it having been found advisable to have both Mr. Hibbs and Mr. Gillrup appointed bonded abstractors so that the work could be handled properly and promptly. The management looks forward to a steady and solid growth and careful attention to business earns the favorable opinion of all the county.

**The Freeborn County State Bank** was organized June 1, 1907, with a capital of \$25,000.00 and opened for business on August 13, 1907, in the Wiegand building, at the corner of Broadway and William street, in the City of Albert Lea. The incorporators and directors of the bank were: Charles Soth, Charles E. Paulson and Howard H. Dunn. The first officers consisted of the following: President, Charles Soth, vice-president, Howard H. Dunn; cashier, Charles E. Paulson, and assistant cashier, Robert Anderson. On the death of Mr. Soth, June 9, 1908, Charles E. Paulson succeeded to the presidency, and Henry Soth became a director.

The bank has enjoyed a steady and continuous growth since its organization. The farm loan business of Naeve & Soth and later of Charles Soth has passed under the management of the bank, and this department has the most extensive farm loan business in this part of the state.

**The Citizens State Bank** of Glenville, was chartered by the state banking department to open for business December 15, 1910, with a capital of \$10,000.00.

The bank is a local institution having fifty stockholders among the business men and farmers in and near Glenville. It has a board of seven directors and the officers are: H. Houg, president; C. L. Swenson, vice-president, and A. P. Sawyer, cashier.



**The First State Bank of Glenville.** August 1, 1899, A. H. Bender moved to Glenville from Waucoma, Iowa, and with his uncle, W. H. Stone, owner of the Bank of Waucoma, Iowa, as partner, started a private bank at Glenville known as the Bank of Glenville, which commenced business September 20, 1899, and continued till August 1, 1907, when they sold out to the Glenville State bank, which had been organized about two months previously by Charles Soth and others, of Albert Lea, Minn. After being out of business for a year, during which time he took a trip through the west, Mr. Bender came back to Glenville and with Mr. Stone, bought the Glenville State bank, taking possession August 17, 1908. The bank was continued under that name till October 1, 1908, when the name was changed to The First State Bank of Glenville and has continued under that name and the same ownership since.

**First National Bank, Alden.** This bank was started in 1892 by M. D. Hawver, president; and J. S. Ulland, cashier, as a private bank. C. L. Todd succeeded J. S. Ulland as cashier in 1893, and Ralph O. Olson succeeded C. L. Todd as cashier in 1894. The bank was organized as a state bank in 1895. Soon after, W. H. Walker succeeded M. D. Hawver as president, and still continues as such. When the bank was organized Peter Hansen was elected vice-president, and still retains that office. Ralph O. Olson continued as cashier until December of 1910, when he was elected vice-president, which office he still holds. The state bank was converted to a First National bank in 1903, with a capital of \$30,000.00, and the following officers were elected at the annual meeting in January, 1911: W. H. Walker, president; Ralph O. Olson, vice-president; Peter Hansen, vice-president; O. N. Hoel, cashier; Alfred P. Christensen, assistant cashier. Directors are as follows: W. H. Walker, Peter Hansen, John Rasmussen, Matt Olson, Ralph O. Olson, Henry Steele, O. N. Hoel, and Fred Hartmann. The capital and surplus is now \$43,000.00.

**Security State Bank, Alden.** This bank was organized May 4, 1904, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00, with James McConnell, E. P. Greeley, W. H. Walker, Matt Olson, and Ralph O. Olson as directors; E. P. Greeley, president; James McConnell, cashier. On June 5, 1909, James McConnell resigned and A. C. Paulson was elected in his place. The bank today has deposits of \$65,000.00, a surplus of \$2,000.00, and is gaining and in healthy condition.

**The State Bank of Hartland** was incorporated October, 1902, with a capital stock of \$10,000. Officers were elected as follows: J. C. Cheney, president; E. H. Stensrud, vice-president; E. O. Nervig, cashier. The first two officers are still in office. E. O.



Nervig resigned as cashier in January, 1906, and his place was taken by John J. Hanson, who held the position until September, 1910, when he resigned. Helmer Stensrud was then appointed cashier. The bank has a surplus fund of \$7,000. The statement rendered at the close of business January 7, 1911, was as follows: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$116,936.34; overdrafts, \$527.54; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$3,500; cash resources, \$35,737.61; total, \$156,701.41. Liabilities—Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus fund, \$7,000; undivided profits, \$107.01; deposits, \$139,594.48; total, \$156,701.49.

**The Manchester State Bank** was incorporated October 10, 1906, Charles Soth, A. O. Moen, Ole M. Olson, G. O. Myran, T. E. Noble, Bennett Asleson, P. O. Slette, John Nilson, Charles E. Paulson, H. Christopherson, C. H. Christopherson, Alfred Christopherson, K. H. Slette, John A. Severson, G. Haakenson, L. O. Hartz, J. A. Thykeson, Henry Soth and H. H. Dunn being the incorporators. It has a capital of \$10,000 and is located in the village of Manchester, seven miles north of Albert Lea on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad. The home of the bank is a modern brick building which it has occupied since December, 1907. The first board of directors of the bank consisted of the following: Charles Soth, O. M. Olson, Charles E. Paulson, Bennett Asleson, G. O. Myran, Alfred Christopherson and Henry Soth. The first officers were: President, Charles E. Paulson; vice-president, O. M. Olson; cashier, Henry Soth, and these men, with the assistant cashier, whose office has since been added, are still the officers of the bank. Henry Soth was the active manager of the bank until the fall of 1908, when R. C. Paulson was elected assistant cashier, since which time the bank has been managed by him.

**The London State Bank** was incorporated on March 24, 1908, with a capital stock of \$10,000 and its management vested in a board of six directors. At its organization Fred Crisman was elected as president; G. P. Meadowcroft, vice-president, and George Funda, cashier, to which offices they have each been re-elected at the last annual meeting. The bank is in a prosperous condition, having placed \$1,000 in the surplus fund during the two years and pays 4 per cent on time deposits.

**The First State Bank of Myrtle**, capital \$10,000, was organized in the summer of 1907, the stockholders being the local farmers and business men of Myrtle and vicinity, together with prominent business men and bankers of Northwood, Iowa. The president is T. S. Hanson, who is also cashier of the Worth County State bank of Northwood, one of the strong financial institutions of northern Iowa; the vice-president is Peter Nelsen, a prominent retired farmer living near Myrtle; the cashier is E. E. Dunn,







H. D. BROWN



who is very popular in the community and well qualified by many years of banking experience in Iowa and Dakota; the other directors are F. E. Dunn and A. A. Schumacher, substantial farmers living near Myrtle, and C. H. Beckett, who is vice-president of the Worth County State bank of Northwood, Iowa. That this bank is conducted along progressive lines is attested by the fact that it occupies its own brick bank building, fitted with modern furnishings, a burglarproof vault and safe, and is still further protected by an electrical burglar alarm system recently installed. That this high class equipment and the strength and character of this bank is appreciated is evidenced by deposits of \$50,000, which for a young bank in a small town is an eloquent expression of public confidence in the institution. The bank pays good dividends and has at this time a surplus and undivided profit account of \$2,000.

**The First National Bank of Emmons** was organized May 2, 1903, with a capital of \$25,000. Its first officers were H. M. Martinson, president; P. M. Joice, vice-president, and N. H. Rasmusson, cashier. October 1, 1903, H. M. Martinson and P. M. Joice sold out their interest and H. H. Emmons was elected president and Alfred Emery vice-president. This institution has made a steady growth and has now an average deposit of \$150,000 and a surplus of \$8,000. The stock is distributed among over forty stockholders, mostly farmers in the vicinity of Emmons village. The present directors are S. L. Davidson, H. H. Emmons, Alfred Emery, O. H. Knutson, William L. Nenge, Nick Nelson, N. H. Rasmusson, K. N. Troe and T. K. Troe. The officers are H. H. Emmons, president; Alfred Emery, vice-president; N. H. Rasmusson, cashier, and T. K. Troe, assistant cashier.

**The State Bank of Clarks Grove** was organized under the state banking laws September 1, 1903, with a paid in capital of \$10,000, the following officers being elected: Alfred Christopherson, president; Hon. J. C. Johnson, vice-president, and Charles E. Paulson, cashier; and they have continued in office to the present time. The above named officers, with Paul Hanson and Robert Anderson, constituted the first board of directors. The business of the bank has steadily grown, showing the prosperity and good standing of the community, and the venture was a profitable one from the beginning. In 1904 a substantial brick building was erected for banking offices. The deposits at the present time are over \$90,000. The statement under date of January 17, 1911, is herewith given: Liabilities—Capital stock, \$10,000; surplus, \$4,000; profit and loss, \$675.25; interest received, \$303.18; exchange, \$3.40; time certificates of deposit, \$56,134.79; deposits subject to check, \$30,873.70; cashier's checks, \$4,600.33; total, \$106,590.65. Resources—Loans and accounts, \$75,890.89; bonds,

stocks and securities, \$500; overdrafts, \$177.13; expense, \$52.74; interest paid, \$89.82; banking house, \$3,000; furniture and fixtures, \$900; due from banks and bankers, \$22,340.26; total, \$106,590.65.

**The Farmers State Bank of Hayward**, was incorporated October 7, 1904, with H. C. Nelson as president, and J. J. Hove as cashier. The directors were C. B. Kellar, V. Gulbrandson, H. C. Nelson, L. O. Braaten and J. J. Hove. On January 16, 1911, the surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$2,100.00 and the total resources were \$70,000.00.

**The Farmers State Bank of Gordonsville** was organized in June, 1907, with \$10,000 capital. L. Dwelle was elected president; H. T. Tove, vice-president, and J. L. Miller, cashier. The institution does a general banking business, and handles foreign exchange, steamship tickets to all the principal ports, insurance, collections and farm loans; and the officials are noted for their courtesy and sound methods. It is the policy of the bank to give its customers the best protection possible, and to this end no expense has been spared. The vault is protected by electrical steel lining and alarms, and is absolutely burglar proof as well as fire proof.

**The State Bank of Oakland** was incorporated under the state banking laws in February, 1911, with a paid up capital of \$10,000, the stock being taken by reliable business men of Albert Lea and some of the residents of Oakland and vicinity. The board of directors are Robert B. Skinner, a retired miller; Alfred Christopherson, cashier of the First National bank of Albert Lea; William L. Palmer, M. D.; Herbert E. Skinner, a successful real estate dealer, and Ben H. Clement, formerly assistant cashier of the First National bank of Albert Lea. The officers are Alfred Christopherson, president; Robert B. Skinner, vice president, and James L. Sorenson, cashier. A handsome and substantial brick building is being erected. The institution is one that will be a credit and convenience to the community and will materially assist in promoting the welfare of the section in which it is located.







HAROLD DAHLEN



## CHAPTER XIV.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS.

**State and County School System—First Schools and First Districts in Freeborn County—State Aid—Equipment—Literary Societies—Meetings for Officers, Teachers and Pupils—Exhibits and Contests—Institutes and Summer Schools—Parochial Schools—Story of the Districts—Prepared with the Assistance of Professor Harold Dahlen.**

In the story of American civilization, the establishment of the school and the church has been coincident with the building of home.

However, at the formation of the Union, and later, when the federal government was established, there was no definite line of action as to public education, although at the same time that the Constitution was adopted the last session of the Continental Congress was being held in the city of New York, and the Ordinance of 1787 was passed, regulating the affairs pertaining to the Northwest territory, including that portion of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi river. In this ordinance much attention was given to the question of providing a means of public education, by giving one section in each congressional township for educational purposes. Later, when the purchase of Louisiana was effected, and Minnesota sought admission into the Union, still further provision was made for education by giving two sections in each congressional township for such purposes. This gave impetus to the natural tendency toward educational matters, and we find that one of the first efforts in the new settlements was to prepare to educate the children. The church and the school building, when not one and the same, were practically always found side by side. The hardy pioneers of the Great Northwest—of which Minnesota was a part—did not wait even for a territorial government, but set to work at once to establish schools. The first one in Minnesota, for the education of white children, was organized by Dr. Williamson, at the present site of the city of St. Paul. We are told that investigation demonstrated that there were about thirty-six children in the settlement who might attend a school. A log house, 10x12 feet, covered with bark and chinked with mud, previously used as a blacksmith shop, was secured and converted into a schoolhouse, and



taught by Miss Bishop. Here, then, while the United States troops were gaining such signal success in the war with Mexico, was begun the system of education which has become one of the best in this great nation. In this same little schoolhouse, in November, 1849, was held a meeting for the purpose of establishing a system of public education, based upon the congressional act of March, 1849, establishing Minnesota territory. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, when appointed governor, proceeded at once to assume the duties of his office. In his first message to the territorial legislature, in the fall of 1849, he emphasized the need of wise measures looking to the establishment of a system of public education in these words: "The subject of education, which has ever been esteemed of first importance in all new American communities, deserves, and, I doubt not, will receive your earliest and most devoted care. From the pressure of other and more immediate wants it is not to be expected that your school system should be very ample, yet it is desirable that whatever is done should be of a character that will readily adapt itself to the growth and increase of the country, and not in future years require a violent change of system."

In response to this appeal for legislation in school matters, we find that a committee on education was appointed, and a very able report was made by the chairman, Hon. Martin McLeod. This report was formulated into an act relating to public schools in Minnesota, which act was passed on the last day of the session, November 1, 1849. It organized the territory into districts, of which the township was the unit, and provided that if a township had within its limits five families it should be considered as one district, but if it contained ten families it should be divided into two districts. Tax levy was provided, and a system of management arranged. The first superintendent of common schools for the territory was Rev. E. D. Neill, who served till 1853. His salary was \$100 a year.

The first school instruction in Freeborn county was given in the pioneer homes by mothers, who, though they had come to a new country, did not wish their children to grow up in ignorance. The public system in the county started in 1857.

The first schoolhouse in the county was erected in Shell Rock, and completed August 18, 1857. Emily Streeter was the first teacher employed in this district. During the following year another schoolhouse was erected in the county, making but two in 1858.

In 1857 the county commissioners organized 16 districts. District 1, organized April 6, included sections 33, 34, 35 and 28, also the southwest quarter of section 27, in township 103, range 19, now Moscow. District 2 was organized April 8, and embraced



sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32 in the township of Moscow. The boundaries of district 3 are not given in the records. District 4 was in Shell Rock township. District 5 was also in Shell Rock township. At the request of George P. Hoopes and others district 6 was set apart, embracing sections in Hayward and Albert Lea townships. District 7 was set apart in Bancroft township at the request of Alf. P. Swineford and others. The next district located was number 8, and this in the townships of Newry and Moscow. District 9 was created in September and was located in Bancroft township. District 10 was created in Moscow, October 5, as the result of a petition of J. M. Stage and others. District 11 was located in the townships of Bath and Geneva. District 12 was located in Moscow township, October 7. District 13 was organized in Freeborn township at the request of John W. Ayers and others. On November 16, district 14 was created in the township of Oakland. District 15 was organized September 9, and included a part of Albert Lea, Bancroft and Manchester townships. District 16 was created September 9 and included sections of Carlston and Freeborn townships.

In 1858, sixteen districts were organized by the board of county commissioners. District 17 was created in February and comprised about two-thirds of the township of Bancroft. In April, eight school districts were authorized. District 18 was located in Manchester and Carlston townships. District 19 was established in Pickerel Lake and Nunda townships. District 20 was organized in the townships of Nunda and Freeman. District 21 was located in Nunda. District 22 was created in Bancroft township. District 23 was the south half of Shell Rock township, and district 24 in Riceland and Bancroft townships. District 25 was in Pickerel Lake. District 26 was set apart in September and included the whole township of Hartland. In October district 27 came into existence and was in Freeborn township. District 28 was organized at the same session and located in Hartland township. On the same date district 29 was also organized in Hayward. District 30 was organized at this time in London, and district 31, in Geneva. In the fall of 1858 district 32 was created in the townships then called Liberty and Springfield, now Manchester and Carlston.

In 1859 the board of county commissioners met and organized thirteen new school districts. District 33 was organized with others up to and including number 37, January 13, 1859. Their locations were to be in Freeman, Manchester, Carlson, Bancroft and Geneva. The following September more districts were organized, making a total of 45, which included the whole number in the county at that time.

In July, 1865, the county schools were placed under a super-



intendent, and the present system firmly established. A new numbering also took place, so that the present districts cannot be identified by their original numbers.

The schools in the common districts are under the immediate supervision of a board of trustees in each district, consisting of three members, the special and independent districts having a board of education, consisting of from five to seven members. The county superintendent has general supervision of the schools in the county. It is his duty to visit the schools, advise teachers and officers as to the best methods of instruction, the most improved plans for building, improving and ventilating school-houses and ornamenting school grounds; conduct teachers' and officers' meetings and make reports to the state superintendent of public instruction.

The state grants special aid to schools coming up to certain standards of requirements—\$1,750 to high schools, \$600 to graded schools, \$300 to semi-graded schools, and \$150 to first class rural schools. Second class rural schools open seven months receive \$75 and those open eight months receive \$100. Freeborn county at present receives special state aid for two high schools, three graded schools, five semi-graded schools, seventeen first class rural and twenty second class rural schools.

Progressive educators hopefully look forward to the time, in the near future, when the country boys and girls will be afforded facilities equal to the best in the cities—when as a result of consolidation and the establishment of local agricultural, graded and high schools, no teacher will be required to teach more grades than she can handle to best advantage, and the pupils be enabled to secure a good elementary and high school education without leaving home. With the new law granting special state aid to seven-month schools, the number of schools on the state aid list is rapidly increasing.

There are 133 organized districts in the county. Of these, two, Albert Lea and Alden, are city schools with first class high schools. The Albert Lea school has an agricultural and normal department. Three are graded schools, Glenville, Hartland and Geneva, each in charge of four teachers. Five are semi-graded, Freeborn and Emmons, each with three teachers, and Gordonsville, Hayward and district 16 Carlston township, each with two teachers. The others are one-roomed schools. There are eleven districts joint with other counties and in five of these the buildings are out of Freeborn county. One school has an enrollment of less than ten pupils, and twenty-seven have an enrollment of from ten to twenty. The largest enrollment is fifty-three pupils, in district 20, Bancroft township, and the smallest is eight pupils in district 68, Albert Lea township. During the past year four-



teen districts had nine months of school; fifty schools, eight months; thirty-four schools, seven months; twenty-four schools, six months; and ten schools, five months. One school is closed for want of enough pupils.

During the year 1910-11, 166 pupils received certificates certifying that they had completed eighth grade studies, with credit.

Many of the schools are well equipped with those things which are required for efficient work. Many of the schoolhouses are new and the old ones are in excellent state of repair. In the whole county there are probably not more than six schools that could be called in poor condition. Thirty-two have patented heating plants, and about thirty more are being installed. Nearly all the schools have libraries.

The teachers' training schools, which are conducted in the county every summer, do much to increase the efficiency of the teachers. These schools are paid for by the state and are conducted under the direction of the county superintendent and a conductor appointed by the state department of public instruction. Instruction is given in all the branches required for a teacher's certificate. These schools are free and well attended, and 165 teachers were enrolled during the summer of 1910.

There are various literary and debating societies in the schools and the reading circle for the teachers is well patronized. Three or more teachers' meetings are held annually. At the county fair each year the exhibits of the children make an excellent showing. Last year fifty prizes were awarded children between the ages of eight and sixteen, for the excellence of their exhibits.

In the following mention of the various school districts, it is not the intention of the managers of this publication to give a complete history of the districts from the beginning down to the present time. An effort has been made, however, to mention the starting and the building of the earlier schoolhouses in the older districts, and to give the present location of all the schoolhouses.

**Alden.** District 40.—This district effected an organization in 1867, and the following year erected a school house in the southeastern corner of section 10. The first officers were: William Townsend, clerk; George Larman, treasurer; Harrington Austin, director. The first term was taught by Miss Maxson, who received \$15.00 per month for her services and boarded at different homes in the district. There were eleven pupils enrolled this first term. District 80 was organized at a meeting held August 24, 1866, at the home of Ira Russell, and the following officers were elected: Director, Ira Russell; treasurer, William B. Humes; clerk, James H. Whitehead. A school house was erected in 1869 at a cost of \$600, in the northeastern corner of section 2. The first school was taught by E. J. Russell with an attendance of



nine pupils. District 70.—A meeting was held March 24, 1865, at the house of O. T. Hull, at which the organization of this district was effected by the election of the following officers: Director, N. L. Bassett; treasurer, O. T. Hull; clerk, E. F. Clark. The first school in the neighborhood was taught at the house of Russell Maxson in the fall of 1868, by Ada Bassett, with nine scholars present. The first instruction given in the schoolhouse was by Angelia Langdon, in the spring of 1869, with eighteen scholars present, and for \$12 per month. A house was erected in the winter of 1868-69, size 18x26, at a cost of \$600, in the northwest corner of section 17. District 81.—The first meeting was held at the house of S. T. Brown, March 26, 1869, at which the district was organized and the following officers elected: A. H. Stevens, director; I. A. Blackman, clerk; F. F. Blackman, treasurer. The sum of \$400 was voted for the purpose of constructing a schoolhouse, and the following summer it was erected at a cost of \$500, size 22x28 feet, in the southwestern part of section 27, being equipped with patent seats and all necessary apparatus. The first school was taught in a sod house in section 27, in the summer of 1869, by Olivia Burdick, and after this there were three terms taught in the same primitive structure. Later a schoolhouse was located in the southeast corner of section 29, which, in recent years, has been moved one mile to the west. District 89 effected an organization in the winter of 1869. The following spring a schoolhouse was erected in the southwestern part of section 25. The first term of school was taught by Dette Stillman, with an attendance of twelve pupils. In 1874 a new schoolhouse was erected at a cost of \$250. District 93.—This district erected a schoolhouse in the village of Alden in the summer of 1875, which was two stories in height, had two rooms and cost \$2,300. The first term of school was taught by George Miller, who received for his services \$45 a month. Alden now has a fine high school. District 130 was created from districts 81 and 92 and the schoolhouse is located in section 28.

**Albert Lea.** District 38.—This district embraces the city schools of Albert Lea, which are treated elsewhere; district 37 has a schoolhouse in the northwest part of section 12; district 14 has a schoolhouse in the northeast part of section 14; district 54 has its schoolhouse in the northwest part of section 35; district 110 has a schoolhouse in the west part of section 28; district 68 has a schoolhouse in the southwest part of section 20.

**Bath.** District 5.—This organization was effected in October, 1863, at a meeting held at the cabin of James M. Drake, in section 25. Several terms of school had been held prior to this, and the whole town had been partially organized as a single



district, so that when this was organized it embraced the entire eastern half of the town. The first school within the limits of this district was held in the summer of 1860, and was taught by Lucia Thomas. In 1864, an old log house was purchased of Torkel Ludwigson, in the northeastern part of section 26, and in it school was held for five months of the same year, taught by the same teacher as is mentioned above. In 1871 a new schoolhouse was erected in the eastern part of section 26, at a cost of between \$1,000 and \$1,200. A new schoolhouse was erected some years ago across the street in section 27. District 7.—This district was organized May 14, 1864, at a meeting held at the residence of R. Fitzgerald, and the following were the first officers: Director, James Fitzgerald; treasurer, G. Oleson; clerk, R. Fitzgerald. During the summer a small log schoolhouse was constructed in the eastern part of section 30, at a cost of about \$100, which did service until 1875, when a new building was completed on the same site, size 18x28 feet, at a cost of \$600. The first teacher in the district was Mrs. Reynolds, who received \$20 per month. District 64.—This district held its first term of school in the summer of 1863, in the residence of H. Green, and Mrs. Mary Johnson was engaged as teacher. For her services she received \$1.50 per week and fifteen pupils were enrolled. A schoolhouse was erected near the center of section 14 in 1873, the district having been organized in 1871. The present schoolhouse is located in the northeast part of section 14. District 82 was formerly a part of district 5, but in 1874 it was set apart and organized at a meeting held in the Baptist Church October 16. The first officers were: Nels Larson, director; Nels Jensen, clerk; J. P. Larson, treasurer. The first term of school was held in the log church during the summer of 1874, with Susan Kinnear as teacher. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1875 near the center of section 25. District 90 was organized in 1859 at a meeting held at the home of John Sheehan, and officers elected were: M. S. Sheehan, director; Hans Rasmussen, treasurer; John J. Sheehan, clerk. A schoolhouse was erected in 1860. The present building is located in the west part of section 10. District 103.—The organization of this district was effected many years ago, at a meeting held at the residence of Michael Sheehan in section eight, and their schoolhouse was erected shortly after in the northwestern corner of the same section. District 114 (joint with Steele county) has its schoolhouse in the northwest part of section 1. District 131 has been created from districts 5, 23, 82 and 7, in Bath and Bancroft townships, and its schoolhouse is located in the village of Clarks Grove. District 133, which was created out of districts 103 and 90, in Bath township,



and certain districts in Steele county, has a schoolhouse in section 4. Bath township.

**Bancroft.** District 20.—This district was originally organized in 1857, as a part of District No. 9, and a log house was soon afterwards erected in which Mary Prescott taught the first school to an attendance of about twenty-five pupils. The first officers were Ole Stuga, Daniel Prescott, and A. Loomis. In 1859, it was made a part of District No. 2, and three years later, in 1862, it was reorganized. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1875, in the southeast corner of section 5, size 24x30, furnished with patent seats, and cost about \$1,000. The officers were: Director, Asa Ward; treasurer, G. H. Prescott; clerk, W. H. Long. District 24.—This district effected an organization in 1862, the first meeting being held at the residence of Knute Tolloftson, April 19 of that year, and the following officers were elected: Director, Lars Johnson; treasurer, G. J. Johnson; clerk, Knute Tolloftson. A log house was at once erected, 16x16 feet, at a cost of \$150, which lasted until the year 1881, when a new school structure was built, occupying a place in the eastern part of section 14. This structure cost \$600, being supplied with patent seats and improved furniture. The first school was taught in 1863 by Lida Hewitt. She received the sum of \$45 for her services for two months. District 58.—This district was organized in 1863, and April 10, that year, the first meeting was held, at which officers were elected as follows: Clerk, Andrew Bottelson; director, B. Frost; treasurer, John Hermanson. This meeting was held at the residence of Benjamin Frost in section 19. The first school commenced May 9, 1863, with sixteen scholars present, in the back room of A. Bottelson's house, with Mary Frost teacher, she receiving \$1.50 per week. The log schoolhouse was finished in 1864. The schoolhouse is now located in the southwestern part of section 20. District 22.—The first school in this district was taught by Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald for \$1.50 per week, in the summer of 1860. The district was organized at a meeting held in the spring of that year and the first officers were: Ole Narveson, J. Fitzgerald, and D. N. Ostrander. A log schoolhouse was erected some time later which lasted until 1872, when a new building was put up which cost \$700. District 23.—This district effected an organization in 1861, the first meeting being held at the house of William English, in the fall of 1860. The same gentlemen donated a site, and a schoolhouse was secured and moved upon it in 1862. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1874, on the southeast quarter of section 2, at a cost of about \$1,200, size 18x26 feet, equipped with patent seats for sixty pupils. District 107 was organized in 1878. The first meeting was held at the residence of Daniel Peterson and officers were elected as



follows: John Slater, director; I. Hammer, clerk; O. O. Styve, treasurer. A schoolhouse was erected soon after this meeting, costing \$770, and it was located in the southern part of section 33. The first term of school was taught by Ella Slater. District 53 has a schoolhouse at Itasca city which was erected in the eighties, and at that time was regarded as one of the model schools of the county.

**Carlston.** District 15.—This educational subdivision came into existence by organization late in 1859, and the following summer, 1860, the first school was taught in a log house, by Martha Stane, with nine scholars in attendance, the teacher receiving as compensation the sum of \$18 per month. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1877, at a cost of \$640, equipped with patent seats for forty scholars. The schoolhouse is now located in the western part of section 10. District 16.—This district effected an organization in the year 1860, and during the following year the first school was held at the residence of James Cook, taught by Mary J. Trigg, with ten scholars present; the teacher received for services the sum of \$1.50 per week, and “boarded around.” The school was held here and in other residences until the fall of 1865, when a log house was erected at a cost of \$800, size 22x30 feet, equipped with patent seats and the necessary apparatus. The present schoolhouse is located on the eastern line of the western half of section 13. District 61.—The first school meeting was held at the residence of William W. Coon, March 27, 1874, at which the organization of the district was effected, and later in the same month these people again met and elected the following officers: Director, William W. Coon; clerk, John L. Garlack; treasurer, David Horning; and soon after, the schoolhouse was erected in the eastern part of section 22, at a cost of \$600. The size of the building was 20x30 feet, supplied with patent seats and all the necessary apparatus. The first school consisted of eighteen scholars, and was instructed by Chandler Sweet, who received \$30 per month for his services. District 67.—This district effected an organization in 1865, by the election of the following officers: Director, David Clark; treasurer, Charles Sweet; clerk, D. T. Clinton. A little shanty was thrown together, with no floor and a board roof, in which the first school was taught by Adelia Bassett, to an attendance of nineteen or twenty. She received for her services \$18 per month. The following year, 1866, a new building was constructed, a short distance from the board shanty, in the eastern part of section 30, at a cost of \$500, size 20x26 feet, equipped with patent seats and the necessary apparatus. Adventists’ Academy.—A select school under this caption was instituted in the village of Alden, over the line in Carlston township, in the upper story or hall of Henry Ernst’s



house, by the gentleman in whose house it was kept. The school commenced December 15, 1875, with from forty to fifty students in attendance; the tuition being from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per term, in accordance with the studies pursued. The teachers were Henry Ernst and his sister, Minnie Ernst. The school prospered for several years, but was finally discontinued, as this method of education was too advanced to find its entire support in the local neighborhood in which it was founded. District 134 absorbed old 118 (joint) district and took portions from districts 67, 15, 117 and 61. A schoolhouse was erected in section 18. District 117 embraces territory in Carlston and Freeborn townships, and the schoolhouse is located in the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 5, Carlston township.

**Freeborn.** District 11.—This district effected the first organization in the township in 1857, and school was first held in a house 12x14, in section 3, taught by Normand Olin, to an attendance of about twelve scholars. In 1860 a schoolhouse was constructed in section 3, size 20x24 feet, at a cost of \$350. In 1874 it was removed to the eastern part of section 4, remodeled and partly rebuilt at a cost of \$400. District 12.—It is said that this district did not arrive to the dignity of an organization until 1865, and soon afterward a building was purchased for \$50 to be used for school purposes. The first school was taught by Minnie Caswell with an attendance of twelve pupils. In 1870, a school edifice was constructed at a cost of about \$400, size 16x20 feet. A schoolhouse was located in the northeastern part of section 23. District 13.—This is the district embracing the village of Freeborn and immediately surrounding country. The organization was effected in 1858, and the first term of school was held at the private residence of E. S. Dunn, on the site of the present village, shortly afterward being taught by Joel Southwick, with an attendance of ten scholars. The school was held in private houses for about two years, when a little shanty twelve feet square was erected, costing about \$20, and three years later another school building was substituted, size 20x30 feet, at a cost of \$700. In 1876, the latter structure was dispensed with and a new, neat and commodious schoolhouse was built at a cost of \$1,500, size 30x40 feet, two stories high, then considered the finest schoolhouse in the township. District 98.—This district effected an organization in 1872. The first school was taught by Mrs. Mattie B. Frisby in the residence of R. D. Burdick in section 1, with an attendance of twelve pupils. In 1873, a schoolhouse was erected in the southwestern part of section 1, size 16x24 feet, at a cost of \$350. The schoolhouse is now located in the central part of section 1. District 101. This district effected an organization in the spring of 1876, and the same year erected a school-



house in section 28, size 18x22 feet, at a cost of \$450. The first teacher was Emily Blighton, with an attendance of ten scholars. The schoolhouse is now located in the southwest corner of section 2. District 113 has its schoolhouse in the southeast corner of section 6. District 63 has its schoolhouse located in the south part of section 18. District 122 (joint) has but eighty acres in this county, and its schoolhouse is located in Waseca county.

**Freeman.** District 46.—This organization was effected in 1862, and the first term of school was taught by Orfa Skinner at the residence of William Eaton, with seventeen scholars present. Shortly afterward a schoolhouse was constructed in the southern part of section 3 at a cost of \$600, equipped with common furniture and the necessary apparatus. District 47.—The first school in this district was taught in 1865, at the residence of Swan Anson, by Altha Young, with eighteen pupils enrolled. Shortly after, the district effected an organization. School was held in private houses until 1873, when a building was decided upon and a schoolhouse constructed, at a cost of about \$125, in which Mary Buchanan first called school to order, with an average attendance of twenty-two. The building was located in the center of section 16. District 48.—The first school in this educational locality was taught by Mrs. W. H. Moore with an attendance of thirty scholars. In 1873, a substantial school structure was erected, at a cost of \$800, being well furnished and well kept. The attendance of the school was about forty pupils. The district embraced the territory in the southwestern part of the town, with the schoolhouse in the northwestern part of section 32. The present building is located in the western part of section 29. District 65.—It is claimed that the first school taught in this township was in this district, although at that time the district was not organized. The first school was taught in Charles Grimm's house, in the winter of 1862, by Charles Grimm, with an attendance of fifteen pupils. This district effected an organization and continued holding school in private residences until 1870, when a schoolhouse 16x20 was erected in the northeastern part of section 29. The first school in this district was taught by Jemima Blighton, with an attendance of twenty pupils. District 66 was created about 1867, and during that year a schoolhouse was erected in section 6 at a cost of \$150. The first term of school was taught by S. Carter, and fifteen pupils were enrolled. District 115 embraces land in the south central part of Freeman township and the schoolhouse is located in the northern half of the southeast quarter of section 28. District 128 was created in Freeman and Shell Rock townships from districts 65 and 50. The schoolhouse is located in section 36, Freeman township.

**Geneva.** District 3.—The first school was opened in a private



house belonging to John Brown, in section 15, in the summer of 1858. Mrs. Henry King wielded the ferule during this term. The next year the citizens succeeded in building a schoolhouse on section 14. Lucy Thomas called the first school to order in the new house, which was a log affair, 20x24 feet, erected by a regular "bee," each farmer contributing something. This served until 1877, when a frame building was erected on section 23, at a cost of about \$400. District 4.—A school was opened in a claim shanty on the town site in 1878. Mrs. Clark was the constituted authority during this term. Afterwards the school was kept in the store of Loyhied & Matison, and later in a building erected for a saloon. A schoolhouse was built in 1865. This is the Geneva village district and maintains an excellent school. District 97.—This was organized in 1875. That same year the schoolhouse was built on the northwest corner of section 14. The first teacher was Ella Davis.

**Hartland.** District 8.—The organization of this district was effected in the spring of 1863 at a meeting held at the house of Aaron Carr in section 10. The first officers were: Director, W. J. McClelland; treasurer, William Wrangham; clerk, William Beede. A log schoolhouse was bought for \$9, and located in section 11. The first school was taught by Mary Bliss, with eight scholars enrolled. District 9.—This district embraces the territory in the southwestern part of the township, and was one of the first districts organized in the county, although the records previous to 1869 have been lost. The present schoolhouse is located in the northeastern part of section 35. District 10.—It is claimed that this district was organized in the summer of 1858, and the first school was taught in the same year by Mrs. Charles Morehouse at her residence, with six pupils present. The first school meeting was held in the fall of 1858, at the residence of C. Morehouse, six voters present, and the following officers were elected: Clerk, George McColley; director, J. P. Duncan; treasurer, Charles Morehouse. In 1863, a schoolhouse was erected near the center of the district, size 26x30, frame, at a cost of \$800. The present schoolhouse is located in the northern part of section 32. District 62.—The first school held within the boundaries of this district was called in the summer of 1860, with twelve pupils present, and Elizabeth Sibbey was instructor. In the spring of 1862 the district effected an organization, the officers being L. Knudson, O. Sheldon, and Levi Jones, and the first school after organization was taught by C. Reynolds in a private house. In 1868 the school structure was erected in the center of section 14 at a cost of \$415. District 109.—This district is the Hartland village school, and prior to its organization the children attended school in other districts. In the fall of 1878 a frame schoolhouse



was erected, which had two stories and cost about \$1,800. District 85 has its schoolhouse in the east part of section 8.

**Hayward.** District 34.—The first school in this district was held in Grange hall, October 2, 1875. The officers elected were E. A. Campbell, Lars Lunde and Peter Lunde. A schoolhouse was erected later which cost about \$700 and seated forty scholars. W. Cooley was the first teacher and received \$32 per month for his services. The present schoolhouse is located in the village of Hayward, and the people of this district have voted \$1,000 toward the erection of a fine new school building. District 35.—This was organized in 1866 at the house of Watson Brown. The first officers were O. Andrews, James Andrews and Watson Brown. In the summer of that year they succeeded in getting up a log house, 16x20 feet. In 1880, the old house becoming inadequate to the wants of the district, a new one was built, a frame structure, 18x30 feet, with room for eighty scholars, and which cost \$700. The present schoolhouse is in the northeast part of section 32. District 36.—In 1864 this district assumed form; the meeting for organization being in the house of Peter Lunde, April 12. A log house was later constructed on section 18, 16x18 feet. The first school had fourteen pupils. It was called to order and managed by Esther Lowry, for \$20 a month. The first school officers were Peter Lund, Andrew Sanderson, and L. R. Luce. The present schoolhouse is in the western part of section 20. District 60.—This district was taken from district 35 in 1864, and the first meeting for its organization was held at the home of Daniel Chute, June 2, of that year. The officers elected were Daniel Chute, Luther Phelps and David Ansley. A log house was constructed which had a sod roof and no floor, but which served their needs and was the best which could at that time be constructed. Emma Fenholt was the first teacher employed in this district and thirteen pupils were enrolled that term. For her services she received \$2.00 a week and she paid board from this salary. In 1875 a new building was erected which cost \$400, and had a seating capacity of thirty-five pupils. District 116 has its schoolhouse in the southwestern corner of section 25. District 132 is located in Hayward and Riceland townships and was created from districts 91, 27 and 34. The schoolhouse is located in section 3, Hayward township.

**London.** District 51.—This district effected an organization in 1862, and the following year the first term of school was held at the residence of H. B. Riggs, in section 11, by Orpha Skinner, with an attendance of about twelve scholars. Then, in 1867, a schoolhouse was erected in the western part of section 12. The present schoolhouse is located in northern part of section 14. District 59 had its first schoolhouse located in the north part of



section 32. The present school building is located across the street in the southern part of section 29. District 71.—This district was organized in 1865, and the first school was held in Morgan Eckert's granary, in section 18. The first teacher in this school was Dora Sabin, and the enrollment numbered about six pupils. After this, school was held in private houses and granaries until the summer of 1869, when a schoolhouse was completed at a cost of \$220. This schoolhouse was located in section 8, and Carrie Harrison taught the first school in it. The building was later remodeled and improved at an expense of \$500. Later another schoolhouse was erected in section 16. This is the only rural district in the county in which school is kept in two different schoolhouses. District 94.—This district was organized in 1874, and a schoolhouse erected during the year, which was located in the southern part of section 23. The building cost \$1,025, and John Bewick was the first teacher, having fifteen pupils enrolled. The people of this district have a new building, in the village of London. This is a two-roomed semi-graded school, modern in every respect, and was erected at a cost of \$3,500. District 125 was created from districts 59 and 94 and its schoolhouse is located in section 28.

**Mansfield.** District 41 was organized about 1872, during which year the schoolhouse was erected in the north part of section 32 at a cost of \$100. Hattie Coblett was the first teacher with an attendance of nine scholars. District 74.—This district effected an organization about 1870, and held school in the private residence of John Kraus Haar in section 2, with Rhoda Gripman as teacher and twelve pupils to answer the roll call. In 1872 a new schoolhouse was erected in the southwestern corner of section 2 at a cost of \$400. District 84.—This district commenced its existence by erecting a school edifice in section 26, the size of which was 16x24 and cost \$300. The first teacher was C. H. Emmons, with an attendance of about twenty-five. District 86, organized in 1872, the first school being taught in Hellek Knudson's house in section 36, the teacher being Jennie L. Roman-son, with twenty-five students present. In the year 1874, two years after organization, a new school building was erected in the southeastern corner of section 35, at a cost of about \$200, the size being 18x24. District 87 is claimed by some to have been organized in 1867; fourteen pupils were in attendance and Ivey Thomas was the teacher. The following year a schoolhouse was erected in the northwest corner of section 8 at a cost of \$400. The lumber in this building was hauled from Austin. Some years ago the location of the schoolhouse was changed to the southwest quarter of section 6. District 92 was organized some time during the year 1875, and a schoolhouse erected in the southwest part of



section 10. This building cost \$400; the first term of school was taught by Aubrus Morey, and the enrollment of pupils amounted to twenty-one. A few years ago the site of this schoolhouse was changed to a few rods further west. District 121 has a schoolhouse in section 20.

**Manchester.** District 17 is one of the oldest districts and has its schoolhouse in the southwest corner of section 29. District 18 was organized in 1861. The previous year a schoolhouse had been erected in section 15, in which thirty scholars were taught by Emergene Walker. The first officers of this district were: Thorson Knuteson, John Ellingson and O. F. Fossum. In 1867 the school building was moved to the site now occupied by the present schoolhouse, in the northeast corner of section 22. District 19.—A meeting was held May 8, 1862, at the residence of Christian Jacobson, at which the organization of this district was effected and made permanent by the election of officers, as follows: Director, Tosten Knutson; clerk, Charles Olson; treasurer, Charles Johnson. In the same summer Mr. Henderson taught the first school, a term of three months, in Charles Oleson's house in section 13, with seven or eight pupils present. In 1864 Christian Jacobson donated a site, and the schoolhouse was erected in the center of section 12. District 21.—This district effected an organization in 1864, the first meeting being held at the house of Erick Olson, in section 9, at which the following officers were elected: Director, Carl Gustaveson; treasurer, Halver Peterson; clerk, August Peterson. The first school was taught by Emma King in Erick Olson's house, in section 9, with twenty pupils present. In 1867 a frame house was erected in the western part of section 9, size 16x22, at a cost of \$300. District 55.—This district was organized in the fall of 1864 in E. D. Hopkins' house, on section 34, and the following officers were elected: Director, O. Kenfield; treasurer, J. Welcor; clerk, E. D. Hopkins. The first school was taught by Maggie Colby in 1864, in a log house belonging to A. M. Johnson, on the bank of Lake Albert Lea. The following year a log house, 18x16 feet, was procured, which was later moved to the southeast corner of section 34.

**Moscow.** Nine districts are located all or partially in this township: 78, 72 (joint), 120, 30 (joint), 28, 95, 96, 31, 127. District 78 has its schoolhouse in the southeast corner of section 4; district 72 has its schoolhouse over the line in Mower county; district 120, in the southeast corner of section 8; district 30, in the northeast corner of section 13; district 29, in the village of Moscow; district 28, in the northeast corner of section 31; district 95, in the central part of section 28; district 96, in the northwest corner of section 25; district 127, in the middle of section 19; district 31, in the village of Oakland. This latter district is



planning to build a fine new schoolhouse at a cost of \$2,000. Most of this district is located in Moscow township, but it also takes in some land from Oakland.

**Newry.** There are nine districts wholly or partly in this township—126, 106, 123, 111, 119, 1, 2, 73, and 79. District 2 has a new schoolhouse erected at a cost of \$2,000 at the northwest corner of section 20; district 123 is joint with Steele county and no school is kept; district 126 is a new district lying in Geneva and Newry townships and Steele county, the schoolhouse being in the latter county; district 106 has its schoolhouse in the southern part of section 5; district 111 is located in the eastern part of section 12; district 1, in the eastern part of section 14; district 119 (joint), in the eastern part of section 24; district 73, in the northwest part of section 28; district 79 (joint) has its schoolhouse over the line in Mower county.

**Nunda.** District 42.—The first school in this district was held at the residence of Samuel Clark and taught by Mary Ann White, with an attendance of 12 pupils, in the winter of 1858. In 1870 a frame building was erected at a cost of \$550, and this schoolhouse was located in section 4. District 43.—The first school held in this district met in the residence of John Hoffman, in the spring of 1858, and was taught by Joseph White. The district effected an organization by the election of the following officers: P. Fitzsimmons, clerk; John V. Wohlhuter, director; Michael Donahue, treasurer. In 1868 a new building was erected in the west part of section 16, which cost \$400. District 44.—It is stated that this district was organized in 1858 with H. G. Emmons as its clerk. The first school was held in an empty house and taught by Sarah Emery. In 1870 a frame schoolhouse was erected in the northeastern part of section 32, at a cost of \$650. This school is now located in the present four-roomed building in the village of Emmons. District 45 effected an organization in the fall of 1861, and its first officers were: Messrs. Rupson, Danahue and Berry. In 1862 a log schoolhouse was erected in the northeast part of section 14. A new frame building was constructed in the west part of section 24 in 1871 which was destroyed by fire June 9, 1881. In the fall of that year a frame building was erected on the old site. District 76 was formerly a part of district 45, but was set apart from the latter in 1863 and organized by the election of B. H. Carter, clerk; Elof Knudson, director; J. M. Tanner, treasurer. In 1865 a schoolhouse was erected in the village of Twin Lakes and this cost \$500. In March, 1881, this building was destroyed by fire, caused by a passing engine. Upon being sued by the district the company was forced to pay \$560 and costs, with which a new building was erected that spring at a cost of \$1,000. District 99 effected an organization



in 1875, and the officers elected were: W. J. Morey, clerk; Fernando Fessenden, director; E. T. Weadon, treasurer. A schoolhouse was erected in the spring of 1876, in the southwest part of section 6, at a cost of \$475. The present school is located in the north central part of section 6. District 105.—This district effected an organization in 1864, and the first school was taught in the house of Peter Knutson in the spring of that year. In the spring of 1866 a small building was erected in section 35 at a cost of about \$100, the labor being donated by the residents. This building was used until 1879, when a new house was erected upon the same site at a cost of \$300, in which the first school was taught by Priscilla V. Hemon, with an attendance of thirty scholars. The first officers were: Clerk, Silas White; treasurer, Peter Knutson; director, Helga Larson. District 108.—This district is really a division of, or it might be called a reorganization of No. 84, coming into existence as a separate organization in 1879 by electing John Larson, clerk; Knute Hovland, director, and Hogen Rasmusson, treasurer. In 1881 a neat school building was erected in the southern part of section 19, at a cost of \$350. The first school in this house was taught by Eslen Nerverson.

**Oakland.** District 6.—This district was organized in 1867, at a meeting held at the home of Mitchell Clark. Officers were elected as follows: Clerk, John Lightly Jr.; treasurer, James Hand. A schoolhouse was erected soon after which was located in the western part of section 12, and the first teacher was Libbie Phelps. Eight pupils made up the total attendance at this time. District 32.—In 1866 this district was organized and a schoolhouse erected at a cost of \$600. This building was located in the eastern part of section 22. The first officers of the board were John Murane, Adam Chista and Peter Young. A. J. Chista taught the first term of school, which was held in a private house. There were thirty-five pupils in attendance. District 33 was set apart from District 32 soon after the organization of that district. It is supposed that the first school meeting was held at the home of Ira Fuller in 1861. The first term of school was taught by Thomas Parker in the home of George Carpenter, and thirteen pupils were in attendance. Early in the summer of 1865 a log schoolhouse was erected in the northeastern part of section 2, with dimensions of 16x24 feet. District 75.—This district was organized in 1865 at a school meeting held at the home of Daniel Kennevan, March 27, and officers were elected as follows: E. R. Earle, director; A. D. Wait, clerk; A. D. Wait Sr., treasurer. W. E. Wait taught the first term of school in the same home in which the meeting had been held and six pupils attended. In 1868 a frame building was erected which cost \$500, and was located in the southwest part of section 29. In 1910 a modern



schoolhouse was erected on the same site. District 83 was organized in 1870, and during this same year a log schoolhouse was constructed in the eastern part of section 7. The first officers of the district were S. Bullock, C. Skinner and S. Dishart. Katie Dishart taught the first school in H. Wyant's house and she received for her services \$15.00 per month. District 112, lying partly in Oakland and partly in London, has its schoolhouse in the eastern part of section 34.

**Pickerel Lake.** District 39.—This was the first district to come into official existence in the township, effecting an organization in 1862, with the following as its officers: Director, John Murphy; clerk, Charles Norton; treasurer, John Ruble. The first school was taught in John Ruble's log house, by Miss Bassett, with ten scholars present. Various provisions were made until 1865, when a frame house was erected on land owned by George S. Ruble, in section 11, at a cost of \$700. District 56.—This district was organized in 1864 by the election of: Director, Frederick Rickard; clerk, L. L. Lovell, and treasurer, N. H. Spoon. The next year a school building was constructed, 14x16 feet, at a cost of \$150, which occupied a site in section 8 until 1868, when it was moved into the southeastern part of section 7. In 1879 a new structure was erected on the same location, size, 16x22 feet, at a cost of \$300. The first school in this district was taught in the fall of 1864, in Mr. Lovell's house, in section 8, by Kate Nichols, with seven scholars present. District 57 was created in April, 1869, with Fred Fink, Henry Weisser and Henry Eberhardt as officers. A schoolhouse was erected that year in the southeast part of section 22, on land donated by Henry Weisser. This building cost \$300. Nancy Ruble was the first teacher, with twelve pupils enrolled. District 69.—A special meeting was held at August Yost's house in section 19, April 16, 1881, at which bonds were voted to the amount of \$300 to build a schoolhouse, and organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Director, Fred Fink; clerk, August Yost; treasurer, H. Schulenburg; there were ten votes cast. In the same year the house was erected on land belonging to C. M. McKee, size 16x24, at a cost of \$316. The first school was taught by Katie Eberhardt, to an attendance of twelve. The present schoolhouse is located in the northeast part of section 30. District 102.—School in this district was first taught in the summer of 1876, in a carpenter shop on Mr. Widman's land, by Katie Eberhardt, with eighteen or twenty scholars. The following year, 1877, a neat frame house was erected in the southwestern corner of section 24, at a cost of \$300. The district was organized by the election of the following officers: Clerk, George Widman;



treasurer, Mr. Jeklin; director, F. Schneider. District 124 has a schoolhouse located in the northeast part of section 16.

**Riceland.** District 25.—The first board of school officers in this district was as follows: Clerk, K. Ingebrigtsen; treasurer, O. Henry; director, John Johnson. In 1872 the first schoolhouse was erected at a cost of \$700, size, 18x20 feet, which answered the purpose for about ten years, when it was dispensed with, and a neat frame building was erected, size 26x36 feet, at cost of \$800, the location being in the southeastern part of section 7. District 26.—The first school held in this district was taught by Miss Williams, with twenty-five pupils present. In the summer of 1861 the citizens of the district erected a log schoolhouse in section 29. A new frame building was later erected in the western part of section 29. District 27 was organized in 1878 and a frame schoolhouse erected in the northeast part of section 27. District 88.—In 1867 the first schoolhouse in this district was erected in section 9, at a cost of \$250. The logs with which this building was erected were given by residents of the district. In 1881 a new schoolhouse was completed at a cost of 800, and this building was located in section 9. District 91.—This district comprised the territory in the southeastern part of section 35, and the first schoolhouse was built in 1872. The present building is located on the site of the former. The people of districts 25 and 26 are contemplating uniting with district 24 of Bancroft township, and then erecting a fine new schoolhouse near the Lerdahl Creamery. Norwegian School.—Knud Ingebrigtsen started a Norwegian school in this township in 1869.

**Shell Rock.** District 50.—The first school held in this district met in the home of Peter Beighley, on his farm in section 32, in the fall of 1858. Mrs. Catherine Hawk was the first teacher and the attendance was small. Later a frame building was erected in the northeastern corner of section 32, which cost \$600. Jane Buchanan was the first teacher in this institution, and there were about twenty-five pupils in attendance. The district embraces the village of Gordonsville and has an excellent school. District 52.—The first school in this district was taught in a granary owned by J. S. Corning. Emily Streeter was the first teacher employed, and the attendance numbered eight. In 1866 a schoolhouse was erected in the northeast corner of section 8, at a cost of \$765. District 49.—This district effected an organization in 1857, and the first school meeting was held at the home of A. H. Bartlett. The erection of a schoolhouse was soon begun, which was completed August 18, 1857, and cost \$500. One week after this building was completed, Emily Streeter assumed charge as teacher. This was the first schoolhouse built in the county. In 1878 a new building was erected, which cost \$2,200. This district



embraces the village of Shell Rock and includes land in Shell Rock, Freeman and Albert Lea townships. District 77.—The first school taught in this district was in 1866, at a granary owned by Mr. Bailey, the teacher being Lena Doris, with an attendance of eight scholars. The schoolhouse is a neat structure, and cost about \$400, and it is located in the southern part of section 14. District 100.—A school edifice was erected in 1876, size 18x20 feet, at a cost of about \$500, being furnished with folding desks and the most improved furniture. The first school was taught by Hannah Buchanan, to an attendance of eight scholars. The schoolhouse is located in the southeastern corner of section 2. District 104.—A schoolhouse was erected in 1878, being a neat frame building 24x30 feet, which cost about \$850, equipped with all necessary apparatus. The first school was taught by Elizabeth Beighley to an attendance of about twenty scholars. The schoolhouse is located in the southeastern corner of section 27. District 129.—This district was created from 49, 50 and 52 in Shell Rock and Freeman townships, and the schoolhouse is located in section 17, Shell Rock township.

Up to July, 1865, no well-defined management of schools existed. In speculating upon the best system, the legislature created first a town superintendency, then an examiner for each commissioner district, and lastly the present plan for one general superintendent for each county. Under this, S. Batchelder was appointed in July, 1865, and served until 1869; E. C. Stacy, from 1869 until 1870; Henry Thurston, from 1870 until the election of Charles W. Levens. O. K. Haugen took office January 1, 1889, and was followed in 1891 by John W. Olsen, who served until January 1, 1901. George P. Lattin was in office for eight years, and on January 1, 1909, Harold Dahlen took charge of the county schools and is still serving.

### ALBERT LEA SCHOOLS.

The schools of Albert Lea had their beginning in 1857, on the block in which the postoffice is now located. Martin V. Kellar, a pupil in this first school, has written the following account of the early schools of the city: "On the southeast corner of the post-office block, corner of William and Elizabeth streets, there had been erected late in 1856 a small log building to be used as a store, but was never occupied as such. Here, on Monday, December 5, 1857, began our first school. Austin D. Clark, brother of Mrs. Mary F. Armstrong, was employed as teacher. But few today could hardly appreciate the disadvantages met with in this first school. But three small windows furnished the light, for seats three long slabs from Ruble's mill were made into benches without backs; a wide slab resting on substantial wooden pegs



in the north wall was the only desk; an old fashioned box stove, always smoking with green wood, furnished by the patrons, was all of our furniture. No bell sent forth its pleasant notes announcing that Albert Lea had a school, for the only bell yet heard in this county was on the old brindle cow. School was called by vigorous pounding on the window with a book or slate. About twenty pupils were enrolled, a few coming from distant parts of the county to attend. Our most serious problem was the scarcity and want of uniformity in books. Only such as had been used by the pupils at their eastern homes were at hand, and scarcely four in the whole school of the same series. One family of three attended and all brought only two books, all they had. We shall never forget our embarrassment by being compelled to sit by a little girl of this family during the whole term, that she might study with me from my books. The teacher of this school, I understand, is still living in Wisconsin. Of the pupils, those known to be living, are: M. V. Kellar, C. B. Kellar, Heman Blackmer, C. D. Marlett and Nathan Babcock.

“Our second school was taught in this building during the summer of 1858 by Lucy Parker, who remained here but a short time. The winter term of 1858-9 was held in Clark’s log store, the second building to be erected on the townsite.

“It stood on the north side of Clark street, directly opposite Hotel Freeborn. Mrs. A. C. Wedge was our teacher. She also taught at the same place our summer school of 1859.

“Our winter term of 1859-60 was held in the ladies’ parlor of the old Webber house, on the corner of Broadway and Main streets, with Adrain K. Norton, of Alden, as teacher. Our summer term of 1860 was held in a small shoe shop, erected by the late William Thompson, brother of Walter. It stood away out on the prairie, where the Presbyterian Church now stands. Mrs. William Lowe, now of Greeley, Colo., handled the rule. Now there has always been a contention between Judge Blackmer and myself as to the kind of wood used in the construction of that rule—he claiming it was sawed out of the knotty end of a bur oak slab—I, that it was choice second-growth hickory. We are agreed, however, that it was a home-made affair, very serviceable and scientifically used.

“We now come to the most memorable school ever taught in Albert Lea—the winter term of 1860-61. A Miss Rice was teacher and though a most estimable young lady, she had no more control over a number of the very large boys than us farmers have over a pen of hungry pigs. No room could stand the knocks of that crowd more than a few weeks, which resulted in our school being held in four different places, and at last to be suddenly closed, and all books left at the old Webber house, where the owners



could get them. This school began in a small office, where Barlow & Spicer's store now stands, from thence to a two story store building on West Clark street, now torn down. The first and second floors, respectively, were used. When the owner became dissatisfied over the destruction, which did not take long, our school was moved to another two-story vacant store, standing on Broadway and Main streets. Both first and second floors, respectively, were used, when one Monday morning we found the building closed. This school, however, bore good fruit, for a building fever struck the whole community. "A school house" was the slogan on every tongue.

"At a special school meeting \$400 was voted, and October 1 found a small building completed on the site of our beautiful main building, and John L. Gibbs installed as teacher. Let me say here that our first school building yet stands, though having been twice moved. It is now on the corner of Main and Newton streets, occupied by C. P. Johnson as a blacksmith shop.

"This school house, from its erection until 1869, was much used for church and Sabbath school work. Those who taught in it during our school days were Lucy Watkins, B. W. Pritchard, Nelson Larnard, F. M. McReynolds, S. S. Sutton and Henry Thurston. For the winter term of 1868-9 this old school house, now being too small, our school board rented an old building standing on the site of our postoffice, that was erected by John Brownsill in 1858 for a wagon shop, and our school was divided, Henry Thurston teaching in the old building the older pupils, and his most excellent wife teaching the young in the newly prepared rooms. This was the beginning of graded schools in Albert Lea."

In 1870, a two-story frame building was erected on the present high school block. In the fall of 1872 it was found necessary to erect a small two-room building on the same block, for the use of the large number of pupils enrolled. In 1881 a beautiful brick building was completed at a cost of \$15,000, its location being on the site of a previous building, in the middle of the schoolhouse block facing the public park. In 1895 a brick building was erected on the north side of the high school block, at a cost of \$15,000. In 1903, the Ramsey school, in the third ward was erected, at a cost of \$16,000. The building is of brick, with eight well equipped school rooms. In 1903, the New Denmark school was also erected. In 1911, a beautiful high school building, the finest in southern Minnesota, is being completed at a cost of \$100,000; the high school building erected in 1881 being an integral part of the new building.

The first man to bear the title of principal of Albert Lea schools was C. W. Levens, who served from about 1870 to 1881, when the special act organizing the school district of Albert Lea



passed the legislature. Under the reorganization, R. H. Battey served as principal from 1881 to 1882, followed by J. C. Alling, from 1882 to 1883. E. Chilcoat became principal in 1883 and served until 1886, when he was succeeded by Edward Brady. In 1888, W. J. Schmitz became principal, and 1897 was given the title of superintendent of Albert Lea schools. He served until 1904, when he was succeeded by E. M. Phillips. When Mr. Phillips resigned, in 1911, to take up state educational work, he was succeeded by E. E. Baker. In 1897, when Professor Schmitz was made superintendent of Albert Lea schools, Mary C. Higgins became principal. She was followed, in 1906, by Mary O. Lathrop, and in 1907, by Lina Gjems, who, in 1911, was succeeded by Mrs. M. P. Fuller.

The records of the Albert Lea school board, still preserved, date back to 1872. From that year until 1881, when the district was organized by the legislature, the members of the board were the following names, the term of service shown in the records being one year, unless otherwise specified: E. B. Jasett, A. E. Johnson, A. M. Lyon, H. D. Brown, W. C. Lincoln (6), D. R. P. Hibbs (7), D. G. Parker (4), Isaac Botsford (3), C. W. Ballard, W. P. Sergeant (3), D. N. Gates (2).

Since the organization of the Albert Lea school district by the legislature in 1881, the school board has consisted of six members. Under normal circumstances, two members are elected each year, each member serving three years. The members of the Albert Lea school board since 1881 have been as follows: D. N. Gates, 1881-1887; W. P. Sergeant, 1881-1882; H. E. Knatvold, 1881-1883; W. C. McAdam, 1881-1883; Mrs. F. B. Foot, 1881-1882; Mrs. D. R. P. Hibbs, 1881 (resigned); Mrs. A. W. Johnson, 1881-1882; Ira A. Towne, 1882-1884; D. R. P. Hibbs, 1882-1893; J. W. Smith, 1882-1894; W. E. Todd, 1883-1898; James H. Parker, 1883-1888; Thomas Walsh, 1884-1888; H. A. Hanson, 1887-1905; D. W. Dwyer, 1888-1891; W. A. Higgins, 1888-1898; J. Q. Annis, 1891-1897; T. V. Knatvold, 1893-1902; T. W. Wilson, 1894-1903; P. C. Johnson, 1897-1898; Vegger Gulbrandson, 1898-1900; Dr. J. P. Von Berg, 1898-1904; A. McCulloch, 1898-1904; C. W. Ransom, 1900-1903; B. F. Durkee, 1902-1905; C. N. Ruble, 1902-1903; Martin Blacklin, 1903-1906; Victor Gillrup, 1903-1906, 1909-1912; W. S. Jones, 1904-1910; J. A. Gustaveson, 1904-1911; Ira J. Stark, 1904-1906; George P. Lattin, 1905-1909; W. A. Morin, 1906-1909; Edward Olson, 1906-1913; H. C. Carlson, 1909-1912; J. E. Fitch, 1906-1910; Robert Anderson, 1910-1913; A. E. Carlson, 1910-1911; A. C. Sorenson, 1911-1914; J. W. Gilbert, 1911-1914.

The present school board consists of H. C. Carlson, president; Robert Anderson, clerk; Edward Olson, treasurer; J. W. Gilbert, A. C. Sorenson and Victor Gillrup.



**Agricultural Work.** The industrial work of the Albert Lea schools had its beginning about 1900, when E. M. Phillips, then city superintendent of the Dawson schools, conceived the idea that something should be done to keep the country boys and girls on the farms. After a careful study of the courses of study he decided to ask his board to put in agricultural work. The board simply considered the idea a new fad and gave it no time.

When Mr. Phillips accepted the superintendency of the Albert Lea schools he brought with him the agricultural idea, determined if possible, after getting acquainted, to interest his board in this work. In the spring of 1905 the idea that had originated in the western Minnesota town began to receive careful thought. That spring the board saw fit to make a start by putting in the manual training work. After this work had been in operation two years, so much interest had been developed along industrial lines that agriculture was added.

A. B. Lathrop came to take charge of the work. The work at this time consisted of one class in the high school and the grade and garden work. This work proved to be not only interesting, but so practical that the board decided to continue the work another year. The work during the second year, under Mr. Lathrop, was quite as successful as the first, and was one of the factors that led to the passage of the Putnam bill in April of 1909. This bill gave to a limited number of schools \$2,500.00 a year, state aid to be used in agricultural and domestic science work.

In September, 1909, Theo. Sexauer came to take charge of the department. At this time the work was placed in the regular high school course and for credits given. The policy at this time was to reach the country people by taking the work to them. The farmers were reached by institute's Short Courses, Cow Testing Associations, and Corn Trains. This department originated the Farmers' Week Short Course, and held the first one in the state. The work of this department in cow testing was the first of its kind in the state. This school can boast of having the only four associations in Minnesota.

In January, 1911, the first corn train was run under the directions of the school, on which 6,500 people were addressed during the four days' trip.

It seems to have been left for this school to organize the Minnesota State Corn Growers' Association, which was completed January 8, 1910, and now consists of over 200 members.

The week now so prominent among state and college men, known as "Seed Corn Harvest Week," also had its beginning in this department at Albert Lea.

In planning the work of the agricultural department, the director has kept constantly in mind the practical side of the



work, and the farmers have come to realize that instead of the once mistaken idea of an agricultural fad they have one of the most helpful departments of the school.

The work has grown to such an extent in the two years past that the board has seen fit to employ C. S. Cathcart for farm machinery work.

As time passes and the funds are increased, the department expects to do more and better things than ever before.

### **BUSINESS COLLEGES.**

The Albert Lea Business College was organized in 1901, by C. T. Helgeson, and has enjoyed a successful career in several different locations. It was moved to its present location in the spring of 1909. The school furnishes an excellent opportunity for a business education, and many of the successful young people of the county have passed through its doors. James W. Hawley is in charge. At various times there have also been other business colleges in the city.

### **ALBERT LEA COLLEGE.**

There are two reasons why Christian churches of all denominations must be dissatisfied with state schools. The first is the fact that colleges and universities maintained by the state are usually over-crowded to a degree that renders individual instruction impractical and scholarship often superficial. The second reason for dissatisfaction is the fact that state schools make no provision for religious training and the establishment of religious character. All this is professedly left to the home and the church; but the home is often so constituted or so situated that the needed instruction and training cannot there be given. Hence arises the necessity for the denominational college, with its Bible study, its daily worship and its religious atmosphere. Accordingly most of the prominent churches in Minnesota early established higher institutions of learning for the purpose of building up the kingdom of Christ; but the Presbyterians of Minnesota were not among the pioneers and were almost the last to enter upon the work of founding a college.

The presbytery of Mankato had adopted resolutions looking in that direction. The presbytery of Winona had also passed similar resolutions, and both had overtured the Synod to make a beginning upon broad and firm foundations, before the morning promise should fade away. But the leading ministers and elders of the stronger churches in the cities thought the time immature and counseled patronizing the state university, and endeavoring to render it positively Christian in its teaching and influence. A few men in various parts of the Synod thought differently.



Prof. James Thompson, of Indiana, endeavored to found a college at Mankato; but he died without a spiritual heir. Rev. Sheldon Jackson began a school in Rochester that gave some promise of growing into a college; but he was providentially called to Alaska. Dr. Rineldaffer inaugurated an excellent female seminary at St. Paul; but it was not endowed and not permanent. Dr. E. D. Neill, of Philadelphia, had begun the Baldwin school for girls, at St. Paul, and Macalester College for boys, at Minneapolis. Rev. R. B. Abbott had opened a select school at Albert Lea and had obtained a charter for a college but proceeded no further. There was no institution in the state that was regarded as a Presbyterian college. There was nothing definitely established, fixed or permanent. All was not far from chaos, though the time was ripe and circumstances favorable for a forward movement.

At the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Minnesota in October, 1878, the following resolutions were introduced by Rev. D. R. Breed, and unanimously adopted. "Resolved: First, that a committee of five be appointed to consult and coöperate with the trustees of Macalester College with a view to the immediate establishment of an educational institution in connection with this Synod. Second, that this committee be empowered to solicit funds, if need be, and if they find the first resolution impracticable, to act as trustees for another institution, to be hereafter incorporated, to be under the supervision of this Synod. Third, that this committee may employ, when found necessary, an agent, at a salary which they shall fix and for which they may provide." The following persons were appointed to constitute this committee, with instructions to report at the next annual meeting of Synod: Chairman, Rev. R. B. Abbott, Rev. D. R. Breed, Rev. Daniel Rice, D.D., Hon. C. E. Vanderburgh and D. W. Ingersoll. During the subsequent year, until the next annual session of the Synod, which was held at Albert Lea in 1879, this committee held seven sessions, four of them in conjunction with the trustees of Macalester College. In their report to the Synod, they recommended that this committee should be enlarged, and instructed to proceed with the preliminary work of establishing a college. This recommendation was unanimously adopted, and a permanent committee appointed to carry out its provisions, as follows: R. B. Abbott, chairman; Daniel Rice, D.D., D. R. Breed, D. W. Ingersoll, S. G. R. McMillan, R. F. Sample, D.D., S. A. Harris, C. E. Vanderburgh, William Mitchell, Rev. R. F. McLaren, J. N. Treadwell, Rev. H. A. Newell, Rev. D. L. Kiehle.

One year later, in October, 1880, the Synod met in St. Peter. The above named committee presented two reports, the majority







ALBERT LEA COLLEGE



CARGILL SCIENCE HALL



report recommending Macalester College as the institution to be adopted and fostered by the Synod; the minority report recommending the acceptance of the offer of a delegation from Albert Lea to contribute \$20,000 toward the founding of a college in that place. The majority was adopted by a vote of 47 to 15. The next day, on motion of R. B. Abbott, this was made unanimous by a rising vote. This action settled the question, and made Macalester the Presbyterian college under the fostering care of the Synod. But the donor of the foundation of the college, Charles Macalester, of Philadelphia, through Dr. E. D. Neill, his agent, had already stipulated that his donation would be made only on condition that the college should be open exclusively to young men, and not as a co-educational institution. This fact is mentioned to account for the further action of the Synod in the provision for another college. For their sons they had adopted a college to whose classes their daughters were not to be admitted. The only just and feasible method to adopt was to undertake the establishment of a college for young women. One half of the Presbyterian field of education in the northwest was left unoccupied. A region several hundred miles in extent in every way, remarkable for fertility of soil, healthfulness of climate, excellence of institutions, natural resources and rapidity of development, bound to have in two or three generations a population of six or eight millions, possessed every needed enterprise apparently except one—that one, namely, a real college of high order and appointment for young women equal to the best in America for young men. A few of the prophets saw the vision. The influence of the Spirit came upon the whole assembly. The following resolutions were formulated, presented and prayerfully considered: “Resolved (1), That this Synod deems it wise and expedient to found a female college under its patronage and fostering care. Resolved (2), That whereas the citizens of Albert Lea have offered a large sum conditioned upon the erecting of a Synodical college at that place; therefore this Synod proposes to them that if they will turn over to this Synod the subscription they have made to the amount of at least \$15,000, on condition that the Synod secures an amount equal to what they offer, for the purpose of founding a female college at Albert Lea, this Synod will undertake to raise this equal sum, and will if successful in this effort, locate a female college at that place, under its care and direction, the Albert Lea subscription to be placed in the hands of the Synod, as soon as the amount to be furnished by the Synod is secured. Resolved (3), That a committee be appointed, of which Rev. R. B. Abbott shall be chairman, to meet the Albert Lea subscribers and learn their will; and if they shall agree to the proposition above made, this committee shall undertake to raise the amount required from



the Synod, subscriptions to which shall be valid on condition that the amount of at least \$15,000 shall be secured." When the vote was called all arose as one man. The following persons were appointed a committee to carry out the above provisions: R. B. Abbott, H. A. Newell, R. F. McLaren, S. F. Drew, J. R. Miller, Presbury West. This committee nominated and the Synod appointed the first board of trustees, as follows: R. B. Abbott, H. D. Brown, D. G. Parker, W. P. Sargent, Francis Hall, Richard Chute, William Mitchell, W. B. Dean, J. B. Little, G. F. McAfee, H. A. Newell, William Conkey, J. F. Damon; and adding the names of J. C. Easton, H. P. VanCleve, D. Breed, D.D., and M. G. Willard, gives the list of the organized incorporators of Albert Lea College under the general statutes of the state of Minnesota. Others, their successors, who served as trustees one or more terms each prior to 1903, are: Rev. W. E. Bates, Rev. W. C. Covert, D.D., Rev. Robert Christie, D.D., Rev. S. S. Cryor, D.D., George D. Dayton, Rev. M. D. Edwards, D.D., Robert P. Lewis, Rev. Stanley B. Roberts, D.D., Mrs. C. E. Vanderburgh, W. A. Funk, John G. Godley, C. O. Goss, Rev. J. B. Helvig, D.D., Rev. W. H. Hormel, D.D., Prof. J. R. Hall, G. H. Haven, E. D. Prentice, H. M. Palm, Rev. J. G. Rhieldoffer, D.D., Rev. A. W. Ringland, D.D., Rev. John Sinclair, D.D., T. H. Titus, B. H. Scriber, Mrs. Ell Torrence, C. E. Vanderburgh, M. G. Willard, A. C. Wedge, M. D., Clarence Wedge, W. A. Morin, Mrs. John A. Willard, Mrs. J. W. Ray.

The committee appointed by the Synod proceeded to elect Rev. Daniel Rice, D.D., of Minneapolis, to act as financial agent for both projected colleges—Macalester and Albert Lea—to canvass the churches of the Synod in a vigorous effort to secure subscriptions amounting to \$45,000, two-thirds of this sum for the former, and one-third for the latter, and sufficient in addition to meet expenses of the canvass. A little more than two years were taken to complete this canvass, when in June, 1883, Dr. Rice informed the trustees of the two colleges that the work was done and the money and subscriptions ready to be turned over to them. The Albert Lea trustees adopted a plan drawn by W. B. Dinnell, architect, and made a contract with Mr. Craig, of Mankato, for the erection of the first building. The foundation was laid in the autumn of the same year, and the corner stone laid with due ceremonies in October, 1883. The building was erected during the spring and summer of the next year, 1884, which is regarded as the date of the founding of the college; but because its completion was too late in the season to furnish the rooms and provide all needed equipment, the opening of the college for academic work was delayed until September 8, 1885. At that date the organization of preparatory classes was effected, with





CHARLES BAKER AUGUR





an enrollment of fifty-one, and the actual work of instruction commenced. The faculty was composed of Rev. R. B. Abbott, president; Laura A. Watson, principal; Katherine Hutchison, Georgiana Hodgkins, and Helen E. Briggs. One more was soon added to the teaching force—Katherine E. Oliver. The following was the succession of principals of the college up to its suspension in 1903: Laura S. Watson, 1885, two years; Martha Harger, 1887, two years; Ella Young, 1889, three years; Margaret L. Hill, 1892, four years; Ella Young, 1896, two years; Virginia Southgate, 1898, two years; Ella Young, 1900, two years; Katherine I. Hutchison, 1902, one year.

The second year of the operation of the college was such as to warrant the conclusion that before two years more there would be imperative need of new buildings as the first building was designed for recitation rooms as well as for household and dormitory purposes. Application was made to Cyrus H. McCormick, Jr., for assistance, and he consented to furnish plans for the buildings. A plan was projected for the additional building during the year of 1887, and forwarded to A. Page Brown, of New York City, with orders to draw designs mainly for dormitory uses. He accordingly prepared them, not expensively elaborate, but of excellent architectural style and much beauty of appearance, with all needed sub-drawings and specifications, entirely at the expense of Mr. McCormick. The plans were so arranged that the building could be erected in three sections, making, when completed, one uniform, handsome and suitable edifice. The trustees, although with very little means at command, resolved to undertake the erection of one section of this building. The entire building, when completed was designed to be the main hall of the college although because of its location and appearance it has usually been known as the wing. The completion of this section, fitting it with furnace, laundry and other appliances incurred a considerable debt, which, added to the small debt already existing, obliged the board to adopt some means for securing funds. After due consideration it was decided to effect a loan of \$15,000 by mortgaging the property and selling bonds, if this could be done. The bonds were accordingly prepared, secured and put on the market. They were disposed of at par, bearing interest at seven per cent. This did away with nearly all the floating debts, collected them all in one sum and furnished financial relief for the time.

Rev. Daniel Rice, D.D., at his decease in April, 1889, left Albert Lea College a bequest of \$25,000 for the endowment of a professorship of Biblical history and literature. This bequest was in the form of real estate within the limits of the city of St. Paul. Nearly four years were spent in perfecting title and



effecting sale of this property to render it productive. In the meantime Dr. Abbott was elected to the chair thus endowed, to enter at once upon its duties, and to receive a salary when this bequest should become available. The property was sold to the trustees of Macalester College about January 1, 1893, and a note of \$25,000 received from them bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum. This was to be the salary of the chair in question. It was expected to be a permanent endowment, but was paid for only two years and three months, when, owing to financial embarrassment, the interest on the note was no longer forthcoming and the endowment was practically annulled.

Like many another institution in its beginning, Albert Lea College has undergone many vicissitudes and has suffered some financial loss and moral support in consequence; but through all the early trials the name and earnest work of one man stands out in bold relief—a man whose clear vision, strong hope and firm faith carried the college through many a dark day—Dr. R. B. Abbott. His untiring purpose and devotion will ever be held in loving memory by all who recall the sacrifice and struggle of those early years.

In 1901 C. B. Augur was appointed financial secretary to undertake to secure funds and settle the entire debt of the college. After three years of active work, during which he also assisted in the general management of the college and in putting in some much needed repairs, Mr. Augur informed the trustees that he had secured subscriptions, discounts and money sufficient to cancel all debts. The difficulty for some time had been this: that the endowment was not sufficient to insure the college against indebtedness for current expenses. In order to afford an opportunity to recover from the financial embarrassment so incurred, and to provide against it so far as possible for the future, active operations were suspended for one year, pending a special effort to secure adequate endowment. The executive committee of the board of trustees was authorized to adopt and carry out such measures as seemed to them wise in attaining this end. Unfortunately the time was necessarily prolonged for four years, and during this time the college doors were closed. Things were not long to remain in this condition. The college was to be reorganized on a broader and more effective scale, and was designed within a few years to become an institution in which Albert Lea should take its greatest pride. The first step towards the reorganization was the meeting of a citizens' committee, which discussed ways and means, and appointed Rev. H. J. Petran special agent to solicit funds. In 1905 John F. D. Meighen took the place of Rev. R. B. Abbott, C. B. Augur the place of Dr. A. C. Wedge and Rev. George H. Mueller the place of W. A. Morin, as trustees. Plans



were at once set on foot for the reopening, and Rev. T. N. Weaver was employed as special agent. As a first move toward a new beginning the music department was opened by Charlotte Ellickson.

Early in 1906 the prospects took on a brighter aspect. On March 12 a letter was received from Andrew Carnegie, offering to donate the last \$25,000 of a permanent \$50,000 endowment fund. April 13 Mary L. Marquis was engaged as principal; later her title was changed to dean and president of the faculty. Dean Marquis remained three years, until 1909, when she married Rev. C. H. Hubbard and retired from college work. Her executive influence, her scholarship and her personality have stamped themselves upon the history of the reorganized college. In June an excellent faculty was chosen and in the fall the college was opened under favorable circumstances. This was in 1906.

In 1907 Rev. T. N. Weaver was instructed to take up active work in canvassing for students, and C. B. Augur was requested to solicit endowments. Mr. Augur, with great personal sacrifice, and with but nominal expense to the college, conducted an active campaign for funds during the next two years, and succeeded in collecting nearly \$50,000, in addition to a gift from W. W. Cargill of nearly \$9,000, which was the result of joint effort, and for which Mr. Augur modestly disclaimed the credit. In 1907, largely through the kindness of T. B. Janney, of Minneapolis, whose advice and wise counsel are as valuable to the college as the material aid so generously and continuously proffered, the most easterly wing of the main building was erected; and on January 22, 1909, Cargill Science Hall, a splendid structure, and a finely equipped heating plant, were dedicated, the principal donation for the former being made by W. W. Cargill, and for the latter by James J. Hill. At this notable occasion the dedicatory address was delivered by Gov. John A. Johnson.

Upon the retirement of Dean Marquis, Anna B. Kiermeier, of Haddenfield, N. J., was named as her successor. Dean Kiermeier is still dean of the faculty and her devoted service is a potent factor in the development of the college. The college now has a faculty of fourteen talented instructors, and the students number 125.

The faculty for the college year of 1911-1912 is as follows: Anna B. Kiermeier, dean, German; Katherine M. Palmer, French and history; Pearl I. Catlin, science; Marguerite M. Fisher, mathematics; Erminia M. Whitley, Bible training department; Mary E. Burgoyne, Latin and history; Julia B. Hensel, Latin and sociology; Emily C. Moore, English; Modest F. Fancuf, expression and physical culture; Irma Haight, director of School of Music, voice; Margrethe Petterson, piano; S. Edith Taylor, piano



and harmony; Lora Gamble, art; Mabel H. Olson, home economics.

In view of the previous financial condition of the college, the latest financial statement, just from the hands of Mellis, Pirie & Co., Minneapolis, expert accountants, is of interest. August 25, 1911, the assets were as follows: Permanent endowment, \$69,326.55; real estate and buildings, \$142,842.83; furniture and fixtures, \$7,491.58; library, \$3,700.67; current assets, \$3,964.15; accrued assets, insurance and earned interest, \$2,296.67; total, \$229,622.45.

This is an increase of more than \$2,000 over the assets of the previous year, while the income from students showed an increase of over \$3,000. The permanent endowment, as above set out, approximates \$70,000. It is proposed to increase this to \$150,000, and something like \$50,000 has been pledged toward the \$80,000 necessary to bring the total permanent endowment to \$150,000.

It is but just to say in connection with this hopeful statement that both before and since the reorganization of the college the greatest credit for its continuance and support is due to C. B. Augur, the largest resident contributor, most successful solicitor, and the mainstay of the board in all difficulties and emergencies.

Dr. A. C. Wedge, who was vice-president of the board of trustees, became acting president on the resignation of Dr. Abbott; in 1906 C. B. Augur was duly elected president of the board of trustees, and he has since served in that capacity. At the same time Clarence Wedge, who had previously been secretary, was elected vice-president and still retains that position. John F. D. Meighen, who had been assistant secretary under Clarence Wedge, has been secretary since 1906. In 1907 D. C. Armstrong was made assistant treasurer, and in 1909 succeeded C. B. Kellar as treasurer. In 1911 Alfred Christopherson succeeded D. C. Armstrong as treasurer and is now serving in that position.

The trustees since the opening in 1906 have been as follows: Terms expiring in 1906—J. G. Godley, C. B. Kellar, Clarence Wedge, R. F. Sulzer and George Stickney. Terms expiring in 1907—C. B. Augur, Rev. George R. Mueller, W. A. Funk, B. H. Knatvold and E. M. Phillips. Terms expiring in 1908—George P. Lattin, John F. D. Meighen, D. C. Armstrong, Robert N. Adams, D.D., and Mrs. C. E. Vanderburgh. Terms expiring in 1909—John W. Olsen, John G. Godley, Curtis B. Kellar, Clarence Wedge and R. F. Sulzer. Terms expiring in 1910—William A. Funk, C. B. Augur, E. M. Phillips, B. H. Knatvold and Rev. G. H. Mueller. Terms expiring in 1911—George P. Lattin, John F. D. Meighen, Robert N. Adams, D.D., Mrs. C. E. Vanderburgh, Thomas B. Janney, DeWitt C. Armstrong and Rev. L. F. Badger. Terms expiring in 1912—John W. Olsen, Herbert E. Skinner, Curtis B. Kellar, Clarence Wedge, R. F. Sulzer and Alfred Chris-



topherson. Terms expiring in 1913—C. B. Augur, Rev. T. Ross Paden, D.D., Rev. H. J. Petran, Clint L. Luce, John G. Hormel, Thomas Fraser and Joseph P. Hurley.

### LUTHER ACADEMY.

The idea of founding an academy in Albert Lea was conceived by Rev. E. Wulfsberg and by Rev. O. H. Smeby, then and still pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. It was discussed with others at a meeting held at the residence of the late Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker September 17, 1887. A committee was then agreed upon, consisting of Rev. T. A. Torgerson, president; Rev. O. H. Smeby, secretary, and Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker, to further consider the matter and report at a future time. It was finally decided to inaugurate the project, and various locations were discussed, Albert Lea, Northwood and Forest City being the three chiefly favored. At a meeting October 21, 1886, it was voted to locate the school at Albert Lea, provided suitable grounds could be obtained and sufficient aid in the way of subscriptions were offered. The aim of the founders was to afford the advantage of a liberal education, which should be truly in accord with Christian principles, the English language to receive the most prominent place in the curriculum. At a meeting held in Albert Lea February 23, 24 and 25, 1888, articles of incorporation and a constitution were adopted and signed by the following: Rev. T. A. Torgerson, Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker, Rev. L. P. Jenson, Vegger Gulbrandson, G. A. Hauge, S. N. Storre, J. B. Thompson, Hans Kristopherson, A. O. Moen, Ole Johnson, John Thompson and B. H. Skaug. The temporary board of trustees were: Rev. T. A. Torgerson, president; Rev. O. H. Smeby, secretary; S. N. Storre and G. A. Hauge. Besides these Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker was chosen vice-president and Vegger Gulbrandson secretary. At the first annual meeting, November 15, 1888, the four principal officers above named were elected, and the following were chosen trustees: Rev. T. A. Torgerson, president; Rev. O. H. Smeby, secretary; E. K. Flaskerud, G. A. Hauge and B. H. Skaug. The first term of the school was opened November 1, 1888, in the fine suite of rooms in the second story of the Syndicate block, on the northwest corner of Broadway and Main street, with about fifty students and the following corps of teachers: Prof. L. S. Swenson, A.M., principal; J. F. Granrud, A.B.; Caroline Nygren and Rev. O. H. Smeby. For some years the institution was known as the Albert Lea Lutheran High School.

By circulating subscription lists among the members of the congregations of the Albert Lea special conference, and the citizens of Albert Lea, sufficient funds were raised for the erection of a three-story brick building at a cost of \$18,000. The cornerstone



was laid August 31, 1890, and the building was dedicated October 6, 1891. The school was housed in its new building that fall.

L. S. Swenson, the first principal of the school, resigned in the spring of 1897. He has since attained considerable distinction, being successively a regent of the University of Minnesota, United States ambassador to Denmark, United States ambassador to Sweden, and United States ambassador to Norway, which latter position he occupies at present. E. I. Strom became principal in 1907 and served until 1902. He is now a prominent clergyman, and is located at Watson, Minn. After his departure, M. L. Ullensvang, who had been a teacher at the academy for some time, assumed the office of principal for one year. He is now a successful teacher and fruit grower in California. In 1903 a call was extended to J. E. Thoen, educator and clergyman. Rev. Thoen is still serving, and his devoted and conscientious service has done much toward giving to the school its present standing.

In addition to the officers of the school that have been mentioned Hans Gulbrandson will long be honored for his many years' efficient service as treasurer. Vegger Gulbrandson also gave faithful service as a trustee from the beginning of the school practically to the present time. The present trustees are: Rev. O. T. Lee (president), Rev. H. J. Strand (secretary), J. M. Anderson, A. C. Erickson and A. E. Landsrud. The officers of the corporation are: Rev. O. T. Lee (president), Rev. A. J. Torgerson (vice-president), Rev. H. J. Strand (secretary), Rev. B. T. Olson (treasurer). The faculty consists of the following: Rev. J. E. Thoen, principal; B. T. Olson, B.L.I.; J. A. C. Torgerson, B.A.; Irvin T. Simley, Edna Johnson, Mary Grimsgaard and J. C. Hanson. Among teachers of other days whose services should be noted are Prof. E. O. Kaasa, Rev. O. H. Smeby and Anna Thykesen. J. A. C. Torgerson was associated with M. L. Ullensvang as principal in 1892-1893.

Sixty-two pupils are enrolled the present year. On August 20, 1911, the cornerstone was laid for a beautiful new brick building, which will be completed this year. This building will be used for dormitory and culinary purposes, with space also for the music department. The buildings are beautifully located on a spreading campus of well-kept lawns, shaded with some grand old trees. In the distance is beautiful Lake Albert Lea, with stretches of water and moor land, against a background of hills and farm lands.

The school is connected with the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod, and aside from the income from pupils is supported by the devout Lutherans of this and neighboring counties. The course covers the usual college preparatory subjects, with business and musical departments also.



One of the most delightful organizations at the school is the band, which ordinarily numbers about twenty-five members. Regular practice periods are observed the same as class recitations; this helps to stimulate interest in the band and to hurry its development.

Two literary societies are maintained by the students. One, the Amphictyonic literary society, meets every other Friday evening to render programs, consisting of recitations, readings, essays, vocal and instrumental music, etc. A public program is given about every six weeks. The Erosophian debating society meets every Saturday evening. As the name implies, the chief work done in this society is debating.

An athletic association has been organized, the object of which is to promote general interest and participation in healthful outdoor games, such as lawn tennis, baseball and croquet. To meet the necessary expenses incurred by the association contributions are solicited among the students and teachers and friends of the school.

The Luther Academy Chorus, which all students are invited to join, works principally at part songs selected by the director. This choir also takes part in the annual concerts of the Albert Lea choral union.

The Glee Club and the Warblers are smaller singing organizations, whose members are selected by the directors from among those students who have the best voices and who can read music most readily. The Glee club is a chorus of boys; the Warblers of girls. These singing organizations and the band furnish music for meetings of the literary societies and for other entertainments at the school, and afford much pleasure and benefit to the members as well as to others. It should be said in connection with the founders of the school; that as early as the seventies, Rev. E. Wulfsburg and others agitated the matter of a Lutheran Academy, and proposed that Ballard's Point be selected as a site. But this dream was not realized, and it was the Rev. Smeby who matured the plans and brought them to a successful conclusion, thus being regarded as the real father and founder of the school.

**Rev. J. E. Thoen**, principal of the Luther Academy, at Albert Lea, was born in Winnishiek county, Iowa, May 10, 1864, a son of Elling N. and Anna Sophia (Brekke) Thoen, natives of Norway. He attended the country schools, St. Ansgar's Seminary, at St. Ansgar, Iowa; St. Olaf's College, at Northfield, Minn., and the Luther College, at Decorah, Iowa, graduating from the latter college in 1892, with the degree of B.A., having in the meantime taught school four years. Later he attended the Luther Seminary, then at Robinsdale, Minn., now at Hamline, Minn., and was ordained after his graduation from that seminary in 1895.

He then went to Hemmingford, Kan., where he had for a parish a territory some 300 by 250 miles in extent, embracing twenty-one different preaching stations. In 1898 he received a call to preach at Wells, Minn., and in 1903 came to Albert Lea and assumed his present duties. He was married in 1895 to Caia Christina Wulfsberg, whose father was one of the first pastors of the Central Freeborn congregation in this county, and founder of the Luther Publishing House, of Decorah, Iowa. Prof. and Mrs. Thoen have seven children: Einar Wulfsberg, Anna Dedriake, Erling, Ingolf Norman, Rudolph Sigfrid, Henrietta Constance and Esther Katherine.



## CHAPTER XV.

### COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

**Summary of Lines in Freeborn County—Land Grant Roads—Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad—Southern Minnesota Railroad—Southern Minnesota Railway—Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway—Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad—Albert Lea & Fort Dodge Line—Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern—Germania Branch—Iowa Central—Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific—Illinois Central—Albert Lea & Southern Railroad—Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad—The Alphabet Line—Railroad Bonds.**

Freeborn county is crossed by the routes of five railroad companies, operating seven lines, and cutting into twenty of the twenty-four townships of the county. The Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul crosses the county from east to west, passing through Moscow, Oakland, Hayward, Albert Lea, Pickerel Lake, Alden and Carlston townships, with stations at Oakland, Hayward, Albert Lea, Armstrong and Alden. This company also owns the Duluth, St. Cloud, Glencoe & Mankato road, better known as the Alphabet or St. Clair line, extending from Albert Lea northwest through Albert Lea, a corner of Pickerel Lake, Manchester, a corner of Carlston, and Freeborn townships, with stations at Albert Lea and Freeborn. The main branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & St. Paul crosses the county from north to south, passing through the townships of Bath, Bancroft, Albert Lea, Freeman and Shell Rock, with stations at Clarks Grove, Albert Lea, Glenville and Gordonsville. This company also owns the Germania branch, so-called, extending from Albert Lea westwardly through the townships of Albert Lea, Pickerel Lake and Alden, with stations at Albert Lea and Conger. The Iowa Central has no track in this county, but reaches the county seat by using the Rock Island from Manley Junction, Iowa, to Albert Lea. The Illinois Central reaches Albert Lea over the original Albert Lea & Southern Railroad Company's track from Lyle, Minn., to Glenville, and from Glenville to Albert Lea over the Rock Island tracks. This line also has a right of way parallel to the Rock Island lines on the east side, from Glenville to Albert Lea. The Illinois Central stations in this county are at London, Myrtle, Glenville and Albert Lea. The Minneapolis &



St. Louis crosses the county from north to south, passing through Hartland, Manchester, Bancroft, Albert Lea and Nunda townships, with stations at Hartland, Manchester, Albert Lea, Twin Lakes and Emmons.

These roads have been built at different times and under various circumstances. The first legislation concerning railways which applies to Freeborn county was introduced in the Minnesota territorial legislature of 1854 by Joseph Renshaw Brown. A bill to incorporate the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Company, introduced by this pioneer, was passed on the last day of the session and contrary to expectation Gov. Willis A. Gorman signed it. The route designated was from some point on Lake Superior by way of St. Paul to the Iowa state line in the direction of Dubuque. This route, it will be seen, might be construed as crossing Freeborn county. June 29, 1854, congress passed an act to aid the territory of Minnesota in the constructing of the railroad over practically the route which had been designated for the Minnesota & Northwestern, and granted for the purpose of aiding such a railroad, every alternate section of land, six sections in width, designated by odd numbers, on both sides of the road. These lands were to be at the disposal of any future Minnesota legislature. The congressional act provided, however, that the road should leave the Iowa state line somewhere between ranges 9 and 17, thus placing it beyond the scope of Freeborn county history.

**The Land Grant Roads.** By an act approved by the Minnesota territorial legislature May 22, 1857, four railroad corporations were granted alternate sections, designated by odd numbers, six miles in width on each side of the roads and their branches, this being in accord with the liberal railroad land grant by congress. These four railroad corporations, viz., the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company (changed to St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company), the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad Company, the Transit Railroad Company (changed to Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company), and the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad Company. The companies were to pay 3 per cent of their gross earnings in lieu of taxes and assessments, and the lands granted by congress were to be exempt from all taxation until sold and conveyanced by the companies. The corporations were generally given ten years to construct their respective roads. The financial embarrassments of 1857 retarded the progress of railroad building, and it also became evident that the parties who had obtained the railway charters mentioned had neither the money nor credit to complete these great highways of internal improvements.

The territory of Minnesota was admitted to statehood May 11,



1858. The constitution ratified and adopted October 13, 1857, provided, in article 10, section 2, that "no corporations shall be formed under special acts except for municipal purposes"; and it still further provided that "the credit of the state shall never be given nor loaned, in the aid of any individual, association or corporation." Notwithstanding the strong feeling worked up over the talk of getting bonds in the aid of railroads so badly needed in the state, the first act of the legislature, which was approved March 9, 1858, before the state was admitted, was to submit an amendment to the constitution, providing for loaning the state's credit to the four land grant roads to the extent of \$1,250,000 each, or \$5,000,000 in all, provided \$100,000 for every ten miles to be graded, and \$100,000 for every ten miles when the cars were running regularly. In return it required the roads to pledge the net income to pay the interest on the bonds, and to convey the first 240 sections of land from the government grant to the state, and to deposit in first mortgage bonds an amount equal to the loan from the state for security. This proposal occasioned much uneasiness among the most prudent of the citizens in the state; and though public meetings were held denouncing the measure, it was, however, upon being submitted to the people, on the appointed day of a special election, April 15, 1858, carried by a large majority, there being 25,023 in favor to 6,733 against the amendment. The measure afterward became known as the Five Million Loan Bill. The state bonds were of \$1,000 denomination, had twenty-five years to run, with interest at 7 per cent, the railroad companies to pay the interest, and were to be delivered to the incorporators of the companies when ten miles of the road was graded and ready for the superstructure. Owing to technicalities it was extremely difficult to market these bonds. Times were hard and the companies were unable to pay the required interest.

On the assembling of the legislature in 1860 the interest on the state bonds having been defaulted, an amendment to the constitution was adopted and submitted to the people expunging the section sanctioned and approved by them April 15, 1858, reserving only the state's rights. The electors of the state, at the general election of November 6, 1860, with unanimity, by a vote of 27,023 to 733, approved of the amendment.

Of the subsequent history of the Five Million Dollar Loan Bill the Minnesota Legislative Manual says: "Along with the prosperity of the state, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the state pride began to assert itself with more force, and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the legislature submitted to a vote at a special



election called for June 12, and was voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds, and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. An extra session of the legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the legislature, on a basis of 50 per cent of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds to the amount of \$4,282,000 to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted at the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor and 24,526 votes against, the action of the legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed, which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877."

Of the land grant roads, the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota railroad only, is of immediate concern to Freeborn county. The Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad was chartered by the territory of Minnesota March 2, 1855. The act to incorporate was passed on the above date by the territorial legislature, and amended February 27, 1857. The charter granted the privilege of covering almost everything in the southern end of the state, provided the eastern terminus remained at Hokah, viz.: "from the village of Hokah, in the county of Houston, and territory of Minnesota, westward by the most feasible and practicable route to some point between the south line of the territory and the point where the township line between 110 and 111 crosses the Minnesota river, thence west by the most direct and practicable route to the great bend of the Missouri river, with the privilege of a branch starting from Hokah and running to the west bank of the Mississippi, via Target Lake to Eagle Bluff in Winona county. Also the privilege of building a branch from some point on the main line east of range 12, west of the fifth principal meridian, and westward through the counties of Mower, Free-



born and Faribault, to the west line of the territory; also the privilege of constructing a ship canal from the main channel of the Mississippi river to Target Lake." May 22, 1857, the territory of the road was extended, and all the land grants applicable to its route duly conferred. This was one of the original land grant roads bought in by the state of Minnesota, which later re-issued its charter and loaned the credit of the state.

**The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company** was the name taken by the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad, May 23, 1857, the day after the land grant was conferred. The company executed a mortgage, issued bonds and deposited them with the state, receiving therefor \$575,000 in state bonds, having at that time graded thirty-seven and one-half miles on its main branch up the Minnesota, and about twenty and one-quarter on its Root river branch. The company defaulted on the payments April 1, 1860, and the governor advertised and sold the property and conveyed the same to the state. The state conferred the property, etc., on divers occasions to various parties during the years 1861 and 1863, but they failed to comply with the conditions. The rights pertaining to the line through the southern tier of counties were conferred upon T. B. Stoddard and associates March 4, 1864, under the name of the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, thus reviving the old title. The company received aid from various municipalities. The road was completed to Rushford in 1867; to Lanesboro in 1868; from Ramsey to Alden in 1869; Lanesboro to Ramsey and from Alden to Winnebago in 1870, making a total of 167½ miles. Trains started running to Albert Lea, October 16, 1869. After various litigation the Southern Minnesota Railway Company was organized under chapter 50 of the laws of 1876.

**The Southern Minnesota Railway Company** was organized March 3, 1877. The Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company was also organized. January 1, 1880, the Southern Minnesota, after receiving a deed from the Extension company, deeded its road from the Mississippi river to Sioux Falls, and the branch from Wells and Mankato, to the Milwaukee & St. Paul Company, the latter issuing bonds and taking possession of the road May 1, 1880.

**Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company.** The original Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company was created March 3, 1853, by an act of legislature and named the Minnesota Western Railroad Company. By authority of the legislature, in 1870, it changed its name to the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company. The next year, the Minneapolis & Duluth Railroad Company was organized by certain stockholders of Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company. The Minnesota & Iowa Southern, and



the Fort Dodge & Fort Ridgely Railroad companies were incorporated under the general laws of Iowa; and these companies, April 20, 1881, were consolidated with the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company and the Minneapolis & Duluth Railway Company into one company by the name of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company. The latter company, on June 25, 1888, went into the hands of a receiver. Its property was sold under a decree of foreclosure, and on October 11, 1894, the **Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company** was organized, which consisted of the Minnesota lines. In order to preserve the corporate rights in the several states, the Iowa lines were conveyed to a committee, who, on January 18, 1895, organized a corporation known as the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad & Telegraph Company of Iowa, which was formerly consolidated with the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company, February 1, 1895.

The line of the Minneapolis & St. Louis reached Albert Lea from Minneapolis on November 11, 1877, on which day the last spike was driven. The Albert Lea & Fort Dodge line of this road was put in operation on December, 1879. Plans are on foot, at the time this book is going to press, for the consolidation of the Iowa Central and the Minneapolis & St. Louis.

**The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway Company** reached Albert Lea with a line from Burlington, in September, 1877, and on September 10, three loads of freight were brought into the village, a passenger service being inaugurated at once. The Germania branch was completed to Albert Lea from the south in the fall of 1900, and work at once started toward the north. In 1901, the tracks reached Owatonna and pushed on to Fari-bault. Early in 1902 the road was completed to St. Paul. In 1901, the **Iowa Central** started running into Albert Lea over the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern tracks.

**The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company**, organized under the laws of Illinois and Iowa dates its origin from a special charter granted by the state of Illinois, February 27, 1847, to the Rock Island & La Salle Railroad Company. By purchase, the corporation acquired, June 15, 1903, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway Company.

**Illinois Central Railroad.** The Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad, which is operated by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, is a reorganized company holding its franchises by charter granted by the state of Iowa, with the exception of the **Albert Lea & Southern Railroad Company**, incorporated September 20, 1899, under the general laws of Minnesota. This road, which extended from the Iowa state line to Glenville Junction, thus crossing Freeborn county from Lyle westward, was consolidated with the **Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad Company**, July 1, 1902. The Al-



bert Lea & Southern was organized in 1899, those interested being W. A. Morin, W. E. Todd, B. J. Humphrey, C. W. Moore and H. B. Litchfield.

**The Alphabet Line.** In March, 1907, a line called the Duluth, St. Cloud, Glencoe & Mankato Railroad was completed from Albert Lea northwestwardly through Freeborn to Cream. Later it was pushed on to St. Clair. In 1911 the line was sold to the Chicago & Milwaukee company, which company it is supposed was back of the proposition from the beginning. The active manager in the promoting of the road was E. L. Tobie, who spent several years in the county during the time it was projected and built.

**Railroad Bonds.** In the early days, it was the custom of the railroads to ask bonds of the township through which their lines were to pass. But few such bonds were ever issued in Freeborn county. Albert Lea and Alden issued bonds for the Southern Minnesota; and Hartland, Albert Lea and Shell Rock, \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively, for the Minneapolis & St. Louis.

The Albert Lea bonds, which were issued to the Minneapolis & St. Louis, were voted by the town, in the seventies, before the incorporation of the city, the object being to provide a bonus for the first line which should reach Albert Lea from Iowa. The Central Railroad of Minnesota, in an endeavor to secure these bonds, started grading from Albert Lea, southward, and the evidence of the grading done can still be seen, near the "big mill" so called, south of the Minneapolis & St. Louis station. The bonds were issued and deposited with the Wisconsin Fire & Marine Bank, of Milwaukee, in escrow, but as the road never progressed beyond a few rods of grading, the bonds were recovered and burned. Interest on these bonds for part of a year was levied against the town to the amount of \$632.00, and this money was used to grade Broadway from Clark street to the courthouse.

It is not the intention of this history to discuss the controversy between the town and city of Albert Lea over the payment of the bonds issued by the town before the incorporation of the city. In 1869, bonds to the amount of \$40,000 were given to the Southern Minnesota, by the town of Albert Lea. In 1877, bonds to the amount of \$15,000 were given to the Minneapolis & St. Louis, principally by vote of the people living in the village. Five months after this, the city was incorporated, and as no mention of the payment of the bonds was made, the whole bonded indebtedness of \$55,000 stood against the town, unknown, however, to the voters of the town, until the \$15,000 was due. In 1891 the \$40,000 Southern Minnesota bonds were refunded, the division being made on the valuation of city and town at that time, the city assuming \$32,000, and the town, \$8,000. In 1907

the matter of the payment of the \$15,000 came up, and the people of the city declared themselves ready to settle the bonds on the rates which had been established for the division of town property and indebtedness in 1878, that of 38.55 per cent for the town and 61.45 per cent for the city. The people of the town, however, insisted that the division should be made on the 1906 valuation of city and town property, making \$12,491.59 from the city, and \$2,508.41 from the town, alleging truly that since the incorporation of the city, the city had annexed large tracts of valuable town property, from which it was receiving the tax-income. In answer to this the people of the city alleged that the city had paid more than its share of the interest, the ratio of interest payments having been determined by the ratio of valuation in town and city property levied each year by the county auditor and by him paid. The matter was taken to the legislature, and it was feared would be dragged through the courts, but an agreement was finally reached, which the people of the town still assert was against their will, but which avoided expensive and extended litigation. The old ratio was accepted, and of the \$15,000, the city assumed \$9,217.50, and the town \$5,782.50. Of the interest from the maturity of the bonds to July 15, 1910, the town paid \$597.27, the city's total being \$10,412.06.







MR. AND MRS. JOHN RUBLE



## CHAPTER XVI.

### CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS.

#### Interesting Happenings in the Life of the County from 1859 to 1882—Political Incidents, Celebrations, Fires, Deaths, and Other Items Which Recall Days Long Since Past.

The items in this chapter are incidents culled from the life of the community from the year 1859 to 1910. This chapter does not purport to be a complete history of the events transpiring through these years, but is intended to give brief incidents in the progress of the county, many of which would long ago have been forgotten were it not for the files of the newspapers, and various historical publications. In dealing with the more recent years, this chapter is confined mainly to the deaths of the old settlers.

**1859.** On May 6 the first murder in the county was committed by a man of weak mind, Henry Kreigler, causing the death of Nelson Boughton in the town of Nunda. The murderer was executed March 1, 1861. On February 12 A. L. Swineford having gone to LaCrescent, Isaac Botsford secured an interest in the "Star." In September an early frost caught many late crops. This was the season when the horse racing mania was upon the community, and one of the first recorded was between a horse owned by F. L. Cutler and one owned by F. Lamb, for \$100 a side. Then came a race between Botsford's black gelding, Crazy Frank, and Dr. Wedge's horse, Selam, in which Crazy Frank won.

**1860.** The newspaper, which had become the "Eagle," was issued for the last time March 17, and the "Standard" was issued May 26 by Ruble and Hooker, with the latter as editor. In July the Webber house was leased to J. A. Robson, of Geneva. During this summer Morin, Wedge and Hall got a new steam saw-mill in motion. Another horse race was run between George S. Ruble's Sleepy Kate, and F. L. Cutler's Bay Lady. Sleepy Kate was declared the winner. The second fair of the Agricultural Society was held at Albert Lea on October 10 and 11. In the early fall of this year, a land sale had been ordered by the president, and the people, who were mostly living on government land, did not feel able to pay for it at that time, so a meeting was held at the Webber house. A. B. Webber was chairman,

and C. H. Bostwick, secretary. Col. G. W. Skinner, who had been appointed to secure coöperation in procuring the postponement of the land sale, reported what had been accomplished. Stacy, Hoops, Rickard, Ash, Webber, with others, addressed the meeting, and Mr. Skinner was sent to Washington to use his influence in the matter, and a committee was appointed to secure funds to pay the expenses. A meeting had been previously held in Porter, at the house of F. W. Calkins, and J. M. Drake prepared the resolutions. The county seat election was fixed for the day of the general election, on November 6. Colonel Skinner returned, and on October 25 another meeting took place at the Webber house; S. G. Lowry in the chair, and E. C. Stacy as secretary. The colonel reported that although there was to be no postponement of the sale, he had obtained concessions which practically gave the settlers what they wanted, as it was provided that no speculators should bid or locate land warrants on lands actually occupied, and the following gentlemen were designated to see the idea carried out: A. B. Webber, of Albert Lea; J. Melder, Carlston; C. Fitzsimmons, Nunda; Eli Ash, Bancroft; J. C. Seeley, Hartland; J. W. Burdick, Geneva; E. Croy, Rice-land; A. M. Young, Shell Rock; George Callahan, London; C. Bullock, Oakland; and D. Gates, Moscow. In December of this year, the trial of Kreigler for murder, in Steele county, almost depopulated this region, so many were summoned as witnesses; even the mail carriers' duties were interrupted.

**1861.** Wheat was reported as selling in Milwaukee for seventy-nine cents a bushel. Henry Kreigler was executed on the first of March, at Albert Lea. Ruble's mill was wrecked and the dam washed away by a freshet in April. This was the only water privilege in Albert Lea. In May, the "Standard" came out with a new dress. In April a military company was formed at the county seat. On August 1. A. B. Webber, having bought the "Standard" issued his first number.

**1862.** An anti cattle and horse thief society was organized early in 1862, with the following officers: President, Joshua Dunbar; vice-president, J. M. Drake; secretary, William Morin; treasurer, A. Armstrong; finance committee, George S. Ruble, F. P. Skinner and James F. Jones; vigilance committee, E. C. Stacy, A. B. Webber, John Brownsill and L. T. Scott.

**1863.** Little of vital interest, outside of the incidents connected with the Civil War, took place in the county this year.

**1864.** In February a dam was started at Shell Rock by Ruble and Tanner. The directors of the Southern Minnesota Railroad for this year were: E. B. Stoddard, C. D. Sherwood, Luke Miller, H. W. Holley, D. B. Sprague and William Morin. In April the contract for making the brick for the court house was let to



H. M. Manley at six dollars per thousand. This was the first brick made north of the city of Albert Lea.

**1865.** This year the soldiers came home from the war, and a period of prosperity and contentment was started.

**1866.** On February 14 Mrs. Charles Anderson, living in the town of Bancroft, went out to the barn to milk in a blinding snow storm, and notwithstanding the house and barn were in an enclosure which she had to climb over, she lost her way and was found dead the next morning two miles away from home. This year a daily mail was ordered through from LaCrosse to Winnebago City. J. C. Burbank & Co. were contractors. The service commenced on July 1. During the summer there was an average of twenty wagons a day passing through Albert Lea with emigrants. In the summer of this year there was talk of organizing an agricultural society. Wheat in July was selling in Milwaukee for \$2.04½ per bushel. On July 10 the hotel barn in Albert Lea was burned. F. Hall started his flouring mill in August, with a single run of stones operated by water under a head of eighteen and one-half feet. In November two persons were drowned in Nunda: Willard Parshall and Thomas J. Stockdale. On December 15, a cemetery association was formed in Albert Lea; Luther Parker was chairman, and S. S. Sutton, H. D. Brown and D. G. Parker were trustees.

**1867.** The school fund for the county this year was \$646.64. At the cemetery meeting in April, E. C. Stacy was chairman; H. D. Brown, secretary; the trustees appointed were William Morin, S. S. Sutton, and S. Eaton. It was resolved to ask the town to subscribe \$500. During this year there were a large number of railroad projects brought out, with Albert Lea as a local point. In May the Albert Lea Musical and Theatrical Association was organized. President and general manager, F. B. Fobes; vice-president, P. W. Dickinson; secretary, S. S. Edwards; treasurer, A. W. St. John; musical director, D. G. Parker. On June 18 the association gave its initial entertainment. The Fourth of July was celebrated with more than usual display. A basket picnic with a barbecued ox as an auxiliary was thrown in. Rev. S. G. Lowry was the president of the day. The declaration of independence was read by H. D. Brown. The orator of the day was Hon. A. Armstrong. In the evening there was a grand ball at the Webber house, and a performance at the Court house. Mr. Stage, on August 6, lost a tin and hardware shop in Albert Lea by fire, entailing a loss of \$1,500. On September 8, William F. Stearns, Holley Springs, Miss., who was stopping at Albert Lea to transact some business, was seized with hallucinations that parties were on his track to torture him, and he committed suicide. He was an attorney, and a man highly respected. At



Twin Lakes, on September 21, Peter Peterson fell from a stack of hay, so injuring him that he died within four hours.

**1868.** In January, A. B. Davis, an early pioneer in the staging business, bought an interest in the Austin & Winnebago City line. Some time in the month of January, James Buchanan, of Shell Rock, killed himself. He was about forty-five years of age and had been in Arizona. In August, Nathaniel Stacy, father of Judge E. C. Stacy, died. He had been a Mason for more than sixty years, and was buried with funeral rites, in accordance with the land-marks of that ancient order. Samuel Wedge, who was sixty-six years of age, died September 19. This season Albert Lea became a money order office. In the fall of this year, Clark W. Thompson, of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, proposed to have the towns issue bonds to assist in building the line.

**1869.** Early in 1869 the patrons of husbandry came into notice in Freeborn county. In April the hopes of the people were carried up several degrees by the statement that the railroad engineers were between Austin and Albert Lea. During April bonds were issued to the amount of \$12,500 to assist in building a school-house in Albert Lea. The engineers reached Albert Lea April 17. In April Albert Lea was honored by the appointment of A. Armstrong as United States marshal for Minnesota. In the town of Bath, May 7, a Dane by the name of Christen Rassmuseon, disappointed in love, climbed into the branches of a tree, tied a cord around his neck and the other end to a limb, with a razor cut his throat in a ghastly manner and jumped from his perch, leaving his sanguinary looking corpse to horrify the first person who happened near. The tide of emigration in May was at its flood. Prairie schooners by the score were passing through town and day after day their white canvas might be seen surrounded by herds of cattle as they wended their way westward. The surveyors of the railroad during May had their headquarters at Albert Lea. The contractors between Austin and Albert Lea were Allen & Stewart. The flag which, it will be remembered, was presented to Company F, of the Fourth regiment, and carried through nine battles (which were inscribed on it at a cost of \$25), was kept by Sergt. Enoch Croy for several years, and then placed in the hands of the county treasurer, being still reverently kept at the courthouse in a glass case. The construction of the new school-house in Albert Lea was commenced in August. On September 22 and 23 a regular county fair was held. In September Col. Albert M. Lea suggested a grand trunk railroad from Galveston, Texas, to St. Paul, Minn., saying that the traffic between the North and South should be larger than between the East and West. The Southern Minnesota railroad reached Albert Lea on Saturday,



October 16, and on Monday business began. In the summer of this year the first brass band was organized.

**1870.** Wheat in January was selling at from 43 to 46 cents a bushel. In the summer Mr. Ernst erected a building and started a boarding school in Alden. A violent tornado swept over the county on July 14; houses were unroofed and much other damage done. During the month of July a petrified duck was found on the shore of Pickerel lake by M. V. Kellar. A hook and ladder company was organized on November 22 at the courthouse. Col. S. Eaton was called to the chair and Capt. A. W. White was appointed secretary. A great railroad excursion took place on October 17, to celebrate the completion of the through line to La Crosse. In the spring of this year a special act was passed enlarging the powers of the officers of Albert Lea in relation to the village, giving authority as to ordinances and licenses. At the celebration of the independence of the United States at Albert Lea there were 5,000 people present. The oration was by Rev. R. B. Abbott.

**1871.** A town meeting was held at Albert Lea on January 4 and \$15,000 voted in aid of the St. Louis railroad. Shell Rock voted \$10,000 and Hartland voted \$10,000. On January 7 the Orophilian Lyceum was organized. Minnie Ernst read an essay on the occasion. A cheese factory was started in Albert Lea in March. On February 23 there was a great freshet in southern Minnesota. Andrew Larson, a Swede, hanged himself in the town of Hayward on March 14, at the house of Andrew Sanderson. He was an erratic and insane individual. On April 12 the citizens of Albert Lea had a meeting and resolved to secure six Babcock fire extinguishers. In April the citizens of Albert Lea contributed to pay for the instruments for the cornet band. The railroad bond question was submitted to a vote of the people, and this county was almost solid against it, the whole number of votes cast being 760; for the payment 80, against the payment 680. Hayward, Alden, Riceland, Bancroft, Manchester and Hartford had no votes for the payment, while Carlston and Newry had one each. The Albert Lea cheese factory, with its appointments, cost \$6,000, and it was completed in June. William Peck was the foreman of the establishment, which had a six-horsepower engine. In October an elk was seen near the residence of Dr. Blackmer, and was shot at with a bird charge by the doctor's son. He ran across the railroad track going south. Quite a cavalcade was soon in pursuit and he was followed as far as the Shell Rock. The animal was killed at Cresco, Iowa. When Chicago was burned, in October, the citizens of Albert Lea had relief meetings and sent what they could.

**1872.** James Fitzgerald, a resident of the town of Bath, fifty



years of age, was frozen to death on February 1. He was away with a team, and it is supposed had an attack of asthma, and did not survive the cold, which was intense; he was found a few miles from home. Gardiner Cottrell, an old settler of Shell Rock, died in May. Martin Sheehan, an old settler who located in Bath in 1857, passed away on August 7. On November 2 L. G. Pierce, of Alden, with his wife and four children, were struck by the engine of a passing train while on a wagon loaded with goods, but none of them were seriously injured. In November Hon. Charles McIlrath was appointed receiver of the Southern Minnesota railroad.

**1873.** In October there was quite an extensive conspiracy to obtain money by selling land not their own by parties from Cleveland, Ohio. They had obtained descriptions of land owned by Cleveland men, and then came out here with forged deeds, and having had them recorded proceeded to sell the lots, but as they were on the point of leaving they were detected and their plans frustrated.

**1874.** Early in 1874 there was quite a spirited controversy as to the name, Albert Lea. Various suggestions were made. The objection to the name arose because it was unusual and unlike the name of any other place in the wide world, which ought to strike the majority of people as being a most admirable reason why it should be retained. In February a young man was frozen to death, near Albert Lea, when intoxicated, and a coroner's jury declared that the saloonkeeper who sold him the liquor was responsible. The Albert Lea Temperance Alliance was organized in February. Fifty-eight persons joined the society. The first officers were: President, Gilbert Gulbrandson; vice-president, Capt. A. W. White; treasurer, H. O. Haukness; secretary, August Peterson. In March A. A. Munn, a leading citizen of Freeborn, committed suicide. A library and reading room was organized on March 27 at the office of Ballard & Hibbs. Dr. Ballard presided at the first meeting. There was quite a gale swept across the county on July 25; in Bath, Manchester and Freeborn it was particularly fierce, unroofing houses, destroying crops and doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage. Grange hall, in Shell Rock, was dedicated on November 6. Among the concomitants of the occasion were a supper and a dance with sixty-two couples in attendance.

**1875.** At the March meeting in Albert Lea the No-License party carried their point by fifty majority. The spring term of the Albert Lea seminary was under the charge of Jennette Curtis, of Michigan. The Congregationalist church bell, weighing 616 pounds, was installed in early November.

**1876.** Joseph Schorbeck, fourteen years of age, was killed by a runaway accident early in January. His body was dragged three miles and mangled beyond all recognition. In Freeman Lea



Hughes fatally shot himself. This was in the winter of this year. In the years 1874 and 1875 the opponents of license had carried the day at the polls, but in 1876 the order was reversed and the license party was triumphant. John H. Smith, a venerable man of eighty-six years and father-in-law of T. Walcott, on June 7, while fishing at Albert Lea, near the railroad, became bewildered and stepped in front of an engine and was instantly killed. He was a pensioner of the War of 1812. At Freeborn, in the early summer of this year, Dora, a little daughter of Mr. Shoen, six years of age, was lost, and after eleven hours' search by the whole neighborhood was found near midnight on the prairie near a grove fast asleep and restored to her distracted parents. The centennial anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the United States of America was celebrated in Albert Lea in a way and manner befitting the occasion. The grasshoppers appeared in the county in August. September 6 the murder and attempted robbery at Northfield excited considerable interest in the chase and capture of the bandits and what assistance could be given was rendered.

**1877.** At the March meeting in Albert Lea the "No License" vote came out ahead with sixty-five majority. The contest was spirited and active and settled a great question for twelve months. A severe snow storm raged for several days near the last of April and the prediction was universal that it was a distressing time for the infantile "hoppers" who were just warming into life and who came to an untimely end by the million. Much ingenuity was displayed in the invention of engines of death for the unwelcome insects. Large numbers of devices were arranged, ditches were dug and various measures adopted. In the town of Alden alone a careful estimate placed the number of bushels caught at one thousand. A woman mysteriously disappeared in Carlston in June. Her maiden name was Martha Sweet, and some time afterwards her remains were found, she having been drowned in ten inches of water. In 1877 the tramps were so numerous that a military company was organized to look after them. The officers were: Captain, Theodore Tyrer; first lieutenant, H. D. Brown; second lieutenant, Charles Kittleson. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern and the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroads reached Albert Lea. At Nunda, August 30, the eldest son of Mr. Bessenger was killed by a runaway accident. The County Bar Association met on September 4 at the office of Stacy & Tyrer, to take action on the accusations that had been so pointedly made in the "Pioneer Press" against Sherman Page, the judge of the district court. The following committee was appointed to confer with other members of the bar in the dis-



trict, and to have the charges investigated: E. C. Stacy, J. A. Lovely and D. R. P. Hibbs.

1878. In Bancroft on Sunday, February 24, the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Prescott met at the house of Henry Loomis to celebrate the semi-centennial of their wedding day. Daniel Prescott and Elizabeth Masserve were married February 24, 1828, at Appleton, Waldo county, Maine, from where they removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1831, and from thence came to Bancroft in 1857. The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Bath was organized on February 1. H. P. Jensen was president and Nels P. Peterson, secretary. In March the question as to city or no city, charter or no charter, was the all absorbing one in Albert Lea. Petitions pro and con went to the legislature; the number signing for were 132 taxpayers; those against 77 taxpayers. The arguments were mostly in relation to the relative cost and to the influence of a city charter upon the prospective growth of the city. It passed the legislature and was submitted to the people on April 1 and carried by seventy-two majority. The first city election was held on May 12. The whole number of votes cast was 380, of which Francis Hall had 369. Ole Oleson Fossom, who came to Manchester in 1856 and opened a farm which he cultivated, ended his days June 9. In the fall W. C. Lincoln, county auditor, pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzlement of school funds belonging to District No. 38 and was sent to state prison for one year and fined \$1,273, or double the amount of the misappropriation. It seems that the amount had been returned, and it was regarded by many as a deplorable mistake of Mr. Lincoln to plead guilty under the circumstances. He was pardoned by the governor in a few weeks and died in 1909.

1880. A tragedy occurred on Sunday, October 2. Ray McMillen, with Henry Johnson and his brother, started on a hunt, going out to White's lake, where they expected to find sport through the day. They had shot one duck when the trio separated, McMillen being at the foot of the lake and the Johnsons to the north, where a number of ducks were seen. The two were away an hour or so; on returning they found McMillen sitting on a rail, a little benumbed with the cold, and on rising he stumbled and fell over the rail, discharging his gun, which took effect in the right side of the mouth, and entering the brain produced instant death. He was thirty years of age, a native of New York state, and had lived in Albert Lea two and one-half years. Ashley M. Tyrer, one of Albert Lea's brightest lawyers, died in May.

1881. On January 28, a post of the Grand Army was instituted in the city. A Board of Trade in the city of Albert Lea was organized February 10, and the following officers were



elected: President, H. D. Brown; vice-president, W. P. Sergeant; treasurer, C. M. Hewett; secretary, C. W. Ballard; executive committee, D. E. Dwyer, W. W. Johnson, William Morin, D. G. Parker, G. Gulbrandson and G. A. Patrick. In June some children in the town of Moscow, who were playing in some clay that had been thrown from a well at a depth of thirty feet found several copper coins with square holes through the center of them, not unlike the copper coins of the Chinese. If these coins actually came from that depth of undisturbed deposit, it is one of the most remarkable discoveries in this line ever made.

1882. In January there was some sporadic smallpox in the city, but it was so carefully looked after by the proper authorities that it did not become epidemic. On January 13, 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Danl. Hurd had their silver wedding, which was a notable event. In June there was a gang of robbers in Albert Lea who went through the railway station and several residences, getting considerable booty; but they soon left for a healthier climate. On April 11 a serious conflagration took place in Albert Lea. Several buildings were consumed, and among the losses sustained were those of the "Standard" office, to the extent of about \$3,000. C. L. Luce lost in personal property about \$300. Other sufferers were: W. Buel, Strauss & Schlesinger, Knatvold brothers, D. E. Dwyer, Judge Town, Mrs. Patton, J. P. Colby, W. M. Butler, C. F. Davis, T. J. Wauck and others.

1883. R. Campbell, Sr., died at Hayward, February 5. He came to this county in 1857. A site for the Albert Lea mill was selected at the junction of the B. C. R. & N., the M. & St. L., and the C. M. & St. P., April 3. May 18, John Heath died. He was born in New Hampshire, and came to Freeborn county in the 'fifties. Mrs. Aurilla Heath died November 7. She was born in New York state, in 1810, and came to Freeborn county in 1858. October 25, the corner stone of the Albert Lea College was laid.

1884. January 5, Mrs. Rebecca Parks died at Albert Lea. She was born in New York and came to this county in 1860. January 28, a fire in Albert Lea caused a loss of \$12,000. Those who suffered damage were as follows: John Schaeffer, Michael Fitzgerald, Naeve & Soth, Fobes & Owen, Franke & Borleske. The latter named firm was the heaviest loser. Several other tenants suffered some loss. August 8, Mead Clark, an old settler of Freeborn county, after whom Clark's Grove was named, died at Grafton, Dakota. October 4, Moses B. St. John died at Albert Lea. He was an old settler, and was born at Norwalk, Conn., December 19, 1809. September 17, a Methodist Episcopal Church was started at Alden. A telephone with forty-five instruments was installed in Albert Lea this year.

Sep  
fair  
200 Bl  
B r



**1885.** D. N. Gates resigned as chairman of the county board, and Thomas W. Wilson was named in his place. February 8, Brock Woodruff died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York, in April, 1816, and came to this county in 1856. February 4, the State Dairymen's Association met at Albert Lea. June 17, the first regular graduating exercises of the Albert Lea high school were held in the Presbyterian Church. June 20, John Wood died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York state and came to Freeborn county at an early day. September 6, the new Danish Lutheran Church, at Albert Lea, was dedicated. September 8, the opening exercises of Albert Lea College were held. September 18, a cyclone passed over Bancroft and other townships.

**1886.** January 1, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Emerson, of Mansfield township, celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding. March 27, Endre Gulbrandson died at Hayward. He was born in Norway and came to Freeborn county in 1856. September 19, a new Methodist Church was dedicated at Alden. November 1, Albert Lea was lighted with electricity for the first time. The farmers' alliance was organized in this county in the spring of this year.

**1887.** January 1, Mrs. Nancy Marvin died near Glenville. She was born in New Hampshire, April 22, 1799, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. February 12, the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association was organized. February 23, Colonel and Mrs. Samuel Eaton, of Albert Lea, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. March 3, the Episcopal Church, at Albert Lea, was dedicated by Bishop Gilbert. March 6, the new church building of the German Methodist denomination was dedicated at Albert Lea. May 18, A. M. Anderson died at Albert Lea. He was born in Norway and came to Freeborn county in 1856. March 17, William Morin died at Los Angeles. He came to Freeborn county in 1856. In March, President Grover Cleveland appointed Dorr K. Stacy, postmaster at Albert Lea, to succeed H. O. Haukness. April 6, the survey of the Duluth, Red Wing & Southern from Albert Lea to Zumbrota was announced as completed. April 4, the stockholders of the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association held their first regular meeting. June 1, 2 and 3, the Grand Army encampment for the state of Minnesota met at Albert Lea. July 2, George S. Ruble died at Albert Lea. He was born in Pennsylvania and came to Albert Lea in 1855. He was buried at Beloit, Wis. August 31, Asa Walker died. He was born in Vermont and came to Carlston in 1859. October 22, a heavy snow storm prevailed throughout the county. November 5, the Albert Lea mill was destroyed fire, entailing a loss of about \$75,000. November 22, G. B. Jones died in California. He



was born in New York state, April 25, 1819, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. June 24, the old Webber house was destroyed by fire.

**1888.** May 18, Daniel Prescott died in California. He was a resident of Bancroft for many years, having come here in 1857 from Maine, the state of his birth. June 11, Mrs. S. Trigg died in St. Paul, she came to Freeborn county in 1857. September 9, Nathan S. Hardy died at Moscow, having been a resident of this county since 1858. October 22, Ira Russell died in Faribault county. He was born in Bartlett, Coos county, New Hampshire, and came to Freeborn county in 1860.

**1889.** January 30, Capt. Mons Grinager died at Minneapolis. He was born in Norway, October 7, 1832, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. May 8, Mrs. Johonne Peterson died at Hartland. Mrs. Peterson was born in Norway in 1819, and came to Freeborn county in the 'fifties. June 13, the first commencement exercises of the Lutheran high school were held, and on the same date the first regular commencement exercises of the Albert Lea College were held. July 2, Mrs. Mary Peterson died at Albert Lea. She was born in Norway, May 9, 1909, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. July 24, John B. Purdy died at Freeborn. He was born in Scotland and came to Freeborn county in 1857. September 6, William P. Spoon died. He was born in Lisbon, New Hampshire, July 19, 1817, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. October 16, the Lutheran Trinity Church was dedicated in Albert Lea.

**1890:** January 28, Mrs. Clarissa Bolton died in Moscow. She was a native of Massachusetts, having been born there in 1813, and in 1856 she came to this county. January 28, Mrs. Lavina Asher passed away in the township of London, she was a native of New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1855. April 9, Mrs. O. Sheldon died in Hartland. She was born in Penfield, New York in 1816, and was among the early settlers in this county. June 12, the first graduation exercises of the Luther Academy were held. August 19, Mrs. Charlotte Collett died in Alden township, at the advanced age of ninety-nine years. She came to this county from St. Johns, Quebec, in the early days. August 31, the corner stone of the present Luther Academy was laid.

**1891.** January 15, Colonel Albert Miller Lea died in Corsicana, Texas. He was born in Richland, Tenn., July 23, 1808. March 24, Mrs. Henrietta Ruble died at Albert Lea. She was born in Saxony, Germany, March 17, 1830, came to Freeborn county in 1856. March 3, Benjamin Robinson died in Shell Rock. He was born in Newark, N. Y., and came to this county in 1857. July 25, Mrs. Samuel Eaton died at Albert Lea. She was born



in Salem, New York, June 14, 1816, came to Freeborn county in 1857. October 6, Luther Academy was dedicated. January 22, Asa Ward died in Montana. He came to Freeborn county in 1857. May 30, Ole Peterson died in Manchester. He came to Manchester in 1856, fought in the Civil War and was a member of the first town board. He sat in legislature in 1883, he also served in other offices.

**1892.** January 16, Mrs. Nancy Sparks McReynolds, wife of Father Isaac McReynolds, died at Albert Lea. She was born in Carthage, Tenn., and came to this county in 1857. Mrs. Peter Tennis died at Pickerel Lake. She was born in Germany and came to this county about 1857. In January the Albert Lea Commercial Club was organized, with the following officers: President, C. W. Ransom; vice-president, W. A. Morin; secretary, H. G. Day; treasurer, A. G. Brundin. In February, Alden Lodge, No. 193, I. O. O. F. was organized with the following officers: N. G., J. P. Peterson; D. G., Axel Noble; R. S., A. G. Hall; T., C. E. Fisher; P. S., J. A. Hazle. February 6, Mrs. George S. Ruble died at Albert Lea. She was born in Ohio, and came to Albert Lea in 1855. She was buried at Beloit, Wis., February 11, Mrs. John St. John died at Hartland. She was born in Ireland, and came to Freeborn county in 1862. February 25, William Kellar died in Albert Lea township. He was born in Louisville, Ky., and came to Freeborn county in 1856. April 17, Patrick Kelley died in Nunda. He was born in Ireland, and settled in Freeborn county in 1858. May 1, J. C. Baer died at the Minnesota Soldier's Home. He was born in New York and settled in Freeborn county in 1856. May 18, the large mill at Albert Lea, then owned by R. M. Todd and C. C. Dwight under the name of the Albert Lea Mill and Elevator Co., was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of about \$35,000. June 15, a cyclone swept the northern part of the country. July 27, one A. T. D. Austin shot N. T. Davis in resisting arrest some three miles north of Alden. August 26, Isaac Botsford was killed by the railroad train. He was born in New York in 1832 and came to Freeborn county in 1857. September 21, Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Ransom celebrated the golden anniversary of their wedding. September 26, Harris Peck died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York and settled in this county in 1858. November 18, Richard Fitzgerald was killed in a runaway. He was born in Ireland, came to this county in 1857, served in the legislature of 1876, occupied various township offices, and attained considerable prominence. In November the Albert Lea Milling Co. was organized as a successor to the Albert Lea Mill & Elevator Co. The incorporators were C. C. Dwight, W. A. Morin, D. R. P. Hibbs, J. W. Smith, C. W. Ransom, De Witt C. Armstrong and Augustus Armstrong. December 26,



Christopher Olson died at Albert Lea. He was born in Norway and settled in Shell Rock about 1856.

**1893.** January 18, Franklin McReynolds died at Albert Lea. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1840, and in 1857 came to Freeborn county, where his father, Isaac McReynolds, had located the previous year. February 7 Andrew Olson died at his home in Bancroft, in which township he settled in the fifties. March 14 Mrs. D. F. Morgan died at Minneapolis. She was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of P. D. Hayward, a prominent Wisconsin pioneer. March 30, Annie Hanson, an old settler, died at Hayward. She was born in Norway in 1817. April 7, L. T. Walker died at his home in Alden. He was born in Vermont and came to this county in 1858. May 9 the Catholic church at Albert Lea was dedicated, the new edifice having been erected under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. E. Donovan. July 1 the Albert Lea Electric Light Company was organized, the electricity business having previously been in the hands of Farnsworth & Edwards. The officers of the new company were C. G. Edwards, S. S. Edwards, S. H. Cady, Harry Jones and W. E. Todd. The capital stock was placed at \$35,000, of which \$25,000 was paid in. July 31 Ole I. Ellingson died at Albert Lea. He was born in Norway in 1825 and came to Bancroft in 1857. He was a veteran of the Civil War and an early treasurer of the county. September 29 Sever Spilde died at his home in Manchester. He settled in this county in 1856. October 26 the Central High School at Albert Lea was considerably damaged by fire. December 12 William York died in Glenville. He was born in New York and settled in Freeborn county in 1856. December 15 Samuel Eaton died in Albert Lea. He was born July 17, 1815, and came to Albert Lea in 1857. December 31 Halvor Kittleson died at Manchester. He was born in Norway and came to Manchester in the fifties.

**1894.** Ole Anderson died at his home in Freeman township. He was one of the earlier pioneers. February 13 Dennis Nolan died in Bath township. He was born in Ireland and was one of the early settlers. April 2 Thomas Hollywood died in Newry, to which township he came in 1857. May 25 Mrs. John Colby died in Albert Lea. She was born at Bradford, Vt., and came to Freeborn county in 1856. May 2 the automatic telephone system was put in operation in Albert Lea with about fifty subscribers. This was the first city west of Chicago to establish the automatic system. September 9 Mrs. Eliza Long died at Albert Lea. She was born in England and came to Bancroft in 1857. November 7 Gilbert Barden died. He was born in 1826 and settled in Freeborn county in 1858. November 24 Mrs. Phoebe B. Baker died in Albert Lea. She was born in Connecticut and settled in Rice-



land in 1857. The new Catholic church, erected by the people of Geneva and Newry, was dedicated November 13.

**1895.** January 18, Henry House ended his life at Albert Lea. He was born in Massachusetts, August 4, 1844, and came to Freeborn county in 1858. April 15, Catherine Beighley Grimm, wife of Charles Grimm, died at Glenville. She was born in Pennsylvania and came to Freeborn county in 1857. April 30, The Albert Lea Improvement League was organized by the ladies. May 24, Elvin Hopkins died. He was born in New York, and settled in Manchester, this county, in 1857. June 31, Co. I., of the 2nd Minn. National Guards, was organized at Albert Lea. June 24, the contract was let for draining Spring Lake in Albert Lea. The work was completed in August. In July an Albert Lea Wheel Club was organized. June 23, a serious cyclone swept the county. July 12, John V. Wohlhutter died in Nunda. He was born in Germany and came to this county in 1857. Sept. 19, a great fire visited Alden, entailing a loss of about \$50,000. Oct. 7, a new opera house was opened in Albert Lea. Nov. 13, F. B. Fobes' local telephone was connected with Alden, Emmons and Iowa points, and progress was also announced in the construction of a line to the twin cities. Saturday night, November 19, street electric lights, 1,200 candle power, were put in operation in Albert Lea, the contract having been let to the Albert Lea Electric Light Co. Nov. 25, a new schoolhouse was burned at Alden. December 2, the new high school building was opened at Albert Lea.

**1896.** This year was characterized by considerable temperance agitation throughout the county, and resulted in the people of Albert Lea declaring for no-license. In January a new plat of the county was published by the Union Publishing Co., of Chicago. The Freeborn County Creamery and Dairy Association was organized as was also the Anti-Saloon League. In the summer a committee consisting of Dr. H. H. Wilcox, S. Strauss, A. Wiegand, W. A. Morin and H. G. Day drew up a constitution for the Albert Lea Hospital which was organized this year. May 29, William English died at his home in Bancroft. He was born in England and was one of the early settlers of this county. July 11, Dr. A. M. Burnham, one of the earliest pioneers, died at Gig Harbor, Washington. He was born in New York in 1824. Oct. 28, Mrs. John Paine died in Hancock county, Iowa. She was born in Whales, March 12, 1825, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. Nov. 7, David Blakely died in New York. He settled in Freeborn county in 1857, and started the Bancroft Pioneer.

**1897.** Jan. 11, Mrs. D. G. Parker died at Albert Lea. She was born near Albany, New York, came to Freeborn county in



1860. Feb. 19, Albert Lea was connected to the Twin cities by telephone. March 4, Henry J. Schmidt died at Mansfield. He settled in Mansfield in 1859. April 18, Mrs. Thor. Anderson died at Manchester. She was born in Norway and came to Manchester in 1856. April 29, Judge E. C. Stacy died at Albert Lea. He was born in Madison county, New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. May 18, Henry Horning died in Albert Lea. He was born in New York, came to Freeborn county in 1860. June 20, Mrs. O. P. Hanson died at Albert Lea. She was born in Norway, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. Nov. 26, a hearing was held on the question of compelling the railroad to establish a station at Emmons. The cracker factory at Albert Lea which had been employing eighteen hands was closed this year. An effort was made to have the city council of Albert Lea grant a thirty-year trolley franchise.

**1898.** January 5, a fire broke out in the stock room of the Standard and demolished all the contents. April 27, Mrs. Sarah Wadsworth died at Freeman. She was born in England, and settled in Freeman in 1856. June 12, George Thompson died at Albert Lea. He was born in England, and settled in Freeborn county in 1860. August 6, Henry Tunnell died in Mansfield. He was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to Mansfield in 1856. He was a member of the state legislature for two terms, chairman of the county board several years, school director ten years and clerk of his school board for some time.

**1899.** February 10, Isaac McReynolds died at Albert Lea. He was born in North Carolina, and was a noted Methodist missionary, coming to Freeborn county in 1856. February 16, Mary Ruble Jones, wife of Oliver Jones, died in Pickerel Lake. She was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. July 28, Henry N. Ostrander died in Alden. He was born in New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1859. November 11, W. E. Todd died at Mankato. He was born in Wisconsin, August 14, 1853, and came to Freeborn county 1881. November 8, Mrs. John V. Wohlhuter died at Albert Lea. She was born in Germany, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. November 8, Judson H. Randall died as the result of wounds received while attempting to remove a small-pox patient to the pest house. October 6, fire destroyed the Milwaukee depot buildings at Albert Lea, wrecked warehouses and consumed valuable goods and baggage.

**1900.** February 12, A. M. Johnson died at Albert Lea. He was born in Oneida county, New York, March 1826, was one of the early settlers of Freeborn county, and served as state senator in 1882. February 19, Gulbert Gulbrandson died at Albert Lea. He was born in Norway, and settled in Freeborn county 1856.



March 2, Clinton Nelson died at Hayward. He was born in Hayward in 1872, and was a soldier in the Spanish-American war. March 10, occurred the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Chamberlain. March 18, the new Presbyterian church of Albert Lea was dedicated. March 17, Mrs. Christine J. Hallum died at Manchester. She was born in Norway, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. March 21, Mrs. Ann Luce died near Hayward. She was born in Windsor county, Vermont, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. April 7, James F. Jones died in Geneva. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. May 4, Hotel Albert at Albert Lea was dedicated. May 30, Francis Hall park was opened. May 9, John Stage died in Albert Lea. He was born in New York, 1827, and came to Moscow in 1856. July 12, Dr. Frank A. Blackner died in Minneapolis. He was born in Amherst, Ohio, and came to Freeport county in 1857. August 5, Joseph Dudley died at Albert Lea. He was born in 1825, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. September 11, Charles Norton died at Pickerel Lake. He was born in Vermont, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. October 16, Ed. Gulbrandson died at Hayward. He was one of the first children born in Freeborn county, and a brother of Hans and Vegger Gulbrandson. The city heating plant was installed in Albert Lea this year. On October 2, 1900, a tragedy, still mourned in Albert Lea, took place on the streets of that city. John Hare, a demented man, shot and mortally wounded William H. Jones, proprietor of the Albert Lea house, and seriously wounded Oscar Subby, then a policeman. Hare was himself shot and fatally injured in the pitched battle which followed. Both of the men mortally wounded survived several hours before death relieved them of their sufferings. Mr. Subby is now the sheriff of Freeborn county. He married Mr. Jones' widow.

1901. January 9, a meeting of the county commissioners was held, over which E. W. Gleason presided as chairman. February 17, Ellick H. Ellickson died at Minneapolis. He was born in Norway and came to this country when but a boy. At different periods during his life here, he held the office of deputy oil inspector and was deputy sheriff for eight years. February 19, Nels Larson died at Clarks Grove. He was a native of Denmark, having been born October 26, 1826. He came to Clarks Grove in 1863. Capt. A. W. White donated his collection of war relics valued at \$10,000, also geological specimens and curios, to the public library. August 3, Horatio D. Brown died at Albert Lea. He came to this state from Onondaga county, New York, in 1856. August 16, John Slater died near Albert Lea. He was born in England and came to Freeborn county in 1858 same year. Novem-



ber 23, Dr. Charles W. Ballard died in Florida. He was born in New York, January 22, 1826, and located in Albert Lea in 1870. During his residence in this city, he served one term as mayor. November 9, Mrs. Helen Gilbert, one of the early settlers of this county, died in Albert Lea.

**1902.** W. G. Kellar died at Albert Lea. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin; came to Albert Lea in 1856, was mayor for one term in Albert Lea. January 28, Gilbert Rundin died at Castlewood, North Dakota. He was a native of Norway, who came to Albert Lea in 1857. March 9, Peter O. Fossum died in Manchester. He was born in Norway in 1815 and came to Manchester in 1856. Frank B. Fobes, one of the pioneers of Albert Lea, ended his life by drowning himself in Fountain Lake. In 1861 he came to Freeborn county and began to work for Hall. He was a private in Co. F, 4th Minnesota Vol. Inf.; became second lieutenant in Co. C, 5th Minnesota Vol. Inf., and later joined an Illinois regiment and served until the end of the war. Then he returned to Albert Lea and engaged in business. He was county treasurer two terms, and held other positions of responsibility and honor. April 24, A. H. Bartlett died at Glenville. He was born in New York, and settled in Freeborn county in 1856. He platted the village of Shell Rock city, now Glenville; was admitted to practice law in 1860; sat in the Minnesota legislature 1857-1858; was probate judge of the county, and for a score of years served as justice of the peace. July 5, a furious hurricane swept across the county, doing much damage, destroying crops, and killing several persons. August 30, a number of Freeborn county people were injured in a railroad wreck near Owatonna, caused by a cyclone which blew the train from the track. December 9, Broc Otto Esping died at Albert Lea. He was born in Sweden, and came to Albert Lea in 1877. December 14, Mrs. Loren Blackner died in Albert Lea. She was born in Wisconsin. The Albert Lea Corset Company was established this year.

**1903.** January 20, the Broadway theater of Albert Lea was opened. March 18, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Mathiasen celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at Alden. April 27, Hon. D. F. Morgan died. He was born in Jackson county, Iowa. April 29, Gilbert G. Manning died in Geneva. He was born in Vermont, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. May 19, Mrs. Heman Blackmer died at Albert Lea. June 7, the cornerstone of the new city hall at Albert Lea was laid. September 6, Francis Hall died in Gig Harbor, Washington. He was born in New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1857, from Ripon, Wis. December 23, the new city hall was dedicated.

**1904.** January 28, Ole Jordahl died in Albert Lea. He was



a native of Norway, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. February 19, Lieut. Henry R. Loomis died in Bancroft. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and a native of New York, who came to this county in 1856. March 15, August Peterson, a veteran of the Civil war, died in Albert Lea. He was born in Norway and came to Freeborn county in 1858. April 13, the Albert Lea city library was opened to the public for the first time. April 16, a message was received from Washington, D. C., that a new postoffice was to be erected in Albert Lea during this year. June 17, William Lenz died in Nunda. He was one of the early pioneers in this county. June 21, Fred Fink died at Pickerel Lake. He was born in Germany and came to Freeborn county in 1856. July 31, Watson W. Williams, a former editor of the Standard died in Minneapolis. July 29, W. H. English died in Albert Lea. He was born in New York and came to this county in the fifties. August 16, William Fenholt, died at Albert Lea. He was a native of Germany, and came to this county in 1858. August 23, George Gardner died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York and was one of the first settlers at Glenville, having come here June 9, 1855. September 25, John Honan died at Twin Lakes. He was a native of Ireland and came to this county in 1857. October 13, Martin O'Connor died. He was born in Vermont, and came to Freeborn county in 1877. October 28, Mrs. Charles Brundin died at Albert Lea. She was a daughter of J. M. Geissler, of Nunda, one of the pioneers of Freeborn county. December 6, Clark H. Dills died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York and came to Freeborn county with his parents in 1858. December 22, F. E. Case, one of the founders of the Case Corset Co., died in Albert Lea. He was born in Connecticut.

**1905.** January 3, E. W. Gleason was appointed chairman of the county commissioners. January 14, Ole A. Styve died. He was born in Norway and came to Freeborn county in 1858. April 7, Mrs. Selina Stage died in Albert Lea. She was born in Canada and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. April 30, Nels Nelson died at Manchester. He was born in Norway and came to this county in 1856. May 12, Anthony Trow died at Glenville. He was born in New Hampshire and came to Freeborn county in 1857. June 5, George W. Dearmin died at Oakland. He came to Freeborn county in 1858. June 14, the Albert Lea High school alumni was organized with the following officers: President, Mary E. Higgins; vice-president, C. A. Ransom; secretary, William Walsh; treasurer, Guy Menefee. August 31, the Albert Lea Tile plant started operations. September 12, the City and County Hospital Association was organized. September 26, Michael Cunningham died at Twin Lakes. He was born in Ire-



land and was an early pioneer of this county. October 15, Daniel Hurd died in Albert Lea. He was born in Rochester, N. Y., and came to Freeborn county in 1856. December 27, the Times was purchased from Ray C. Blackner, by William Morin and C. S. Edwards of the Enterprise, and the consolidated paper given the name of the Times-Enterprise. The closing months of this year were characterized by a telephone war.

**1906.** January 8, Chas. N. Ruble died at Shelbyville, Tenn. Hon. Moses K. Armstrong died in Albert Lea. He was born in Milan, Erie county, Ohio, and came to Minnesota in 1858. January 6, Henry Thurston, died at Washington, D. C. He was born in Oxford, Massachusetts, 1833, and came to Freeborn county 1857. May 17, Samuel B. Smith, pioneer, died in Manchester. He was born in Renville, Ohio, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. June 13, Mrs. M. A. Holcomb died at Zion City, Illinois. She was born in England, February 20, 1828, and came to Freeborn county in 1859. November 11, The First Baptist church at Albert Lea was dedicated. December 19, Mrs. Elizabeth D. Stacy died in Albert Lea. She came to Freeborn county 1856. March 9, Michael Gardner died in Newry. He was born in Ireland.

**1907.** January 13, Asa W. White, a veteran of the Civil war, died. He was a native of New York and came here in 1856. January 20, Mrs. Daniel Dwyer died in Minneapolis. She was born in Ireland, and with her husband and two children came to Freeborn county in 1858. January 26, Henry D. Blackmer died in Albert Lea township. He came to Albert Lea with his parents in 1857. January 26, John P. Beighley died at Gordonsville. He was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. He was the first mail carrier between Northwood, Iowa and Albert Lea. Jan. 7, Mrs. Ella K. Boen died at Manchester. She was born in Norway in 1812, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. February 23, Nicholas T. Sandburg, a veteran of the Civil war died. He was born in Norway and settled in Bancroft in 1857. March 10, the Alphabet railroad was put in operation. March 26, W. W. Johnson died at Albert Lea. March 31, Zadock Mallery died in Albert Lea. He was born in New York, served in the Civil war, and came later to Freeborn county. April 4, contract for building the Riceland judicial ditch was awarded to the France Dredging Construction Co. May 5, the first services of the Salem English Lutheran church were held. May 2, George B. Chamberlain died at Albert Lea. He was a native of Massachusetts, and came to Freeborn county in 1858. July 6, Joseph Landis died at Glenville. He came to this county about 1858. July 4, a successful Chautauqua opened at Albert Lea. July 17, the Freeborn County Standard moved



into its new quarters in the Francis Hall building, corner of Broadway and Clark street. August 17, Jens Frandsen died in Albert Lea. He was one of the early pioneers of the county. Aug. 21, Bernard Schad died at Geneva. He came to this county in 1857. August 30, D. G. Parker died at Port Arthur, Texas. He was born at Mount Desert Island, Maine, and he came to Albert Lea in 1858. August 25, Mrs. Agnethe Nelson died at Glenville. She was a native of Norway, and came to Freeborn county in 1858. October 21, Jacob Baker died at Manchester. He was of German birth and came to Freeborn county in 1857. December 24, the Armstrong block was damaged by fire. The total loss estimated at more than \$25,000. There were several notable improvements during this year, such as would be a credit to any city of the state. Among these are the College addition, Brundin Bros.' Packing Plant, the enlargement of the American Gas Machine Co., the extension of the Lake Shore Greenhouses, the Heilman Brewing Co. building, the large sum expended for curbing, cross walks and similar permanent street improvements, and not least among these improvements, are the large number of fine new residences erected.

**1908.** January 22, Mrs. Helen Carter died at Ambrose, North Dakota. She was born in New York state in 1828, and came to Freeborn county 1857. January 21, Hon. J. A. Lovely died at Albert Lea. He came to Freeborn county in the sixties, and served as city attorney. He was born in Burlington, Vermont, 1843. February 10, Mrs. Ellen Thompson died at Albert Lea. She was born in Buckingham, England, 1830, and came to Freeborn county in 1857. February 5, Joseph Hermanson died in Bancroft. He was born in Norway, 1824, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. March 3, Fred Wieser, a pioneer of Freeborn county, died in Pickerel Lake. He was born in Germany, 1838, and came to Freeborn county in 1859. March 15, Henry Schneider, one of the earliest settlers of Freeborn county, died at Albert Lea. He was born in Germany, 1826, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. March 14, C. M. Hewitt died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1859. April 22, George W. Geesey, a pioneer and soldier, died at London. He was born in New York, 1834. November 28, John L. Gibbs, died at Owatonna. He was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, 1836. In 1862 he was elected county attorney; in 1864 he was elected to the legislature and served six years; in 1896 he was elected lieutenant governor. He came to Freeborn county in 1861. December 30, Tosten Narvesen (Hayden), a soldier, died in Glenville.

**1909.** January 22, the Cargill Science Hall of the Albert Lea College was dedicated. January 30, Hiram M. Pettit, a soldier



of the Civil war and a pioneer of Freeborn county, died in Fertile, Iowa. He was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Freeborn county in 1863. February 25, Captain Eli K. Pickett, a pioneer of Freeborn county and gallant soldier of the Civil war, died at Albert Lea. He was born in New York, and came to Freeborn county in 1860. April 15, L. Flanagan, a soldier of the Civil war, died at Albert Lea. He was born in Ireland, and came to Freeborn county in 1860. April 15, T. Anderson, a pioneer of Freeborn county, died at Manchester. He was born in Norway, 1823, and came to Freeborn county in 1856. June 4, Charles Seth died at Albert Lea. He was born in Germany. June 25, Mrs. Ellen Fitzgerald, a pioneer of Freeborn county, died in Bath township. She was born in Ireland, 1838, and came to Freeborn county, 1858. June 7, Andreas Severson, a pioneer died in Manchester. He was born in Norway, 1824. July 28, John M. Geissler died at Albert Lea. He was born in Germany, came to Freeborn county in 1857, and served in the Civil war. August 25, Mr. and Mrs. William Hazelton of Albert Lea, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. August 25, Thomas Donovan, a pioneer, died in Owatonna. He was born in Ireland, 1831, and came to Freeborn county in the fifties. August 28, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Morgan of Moscow, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. November 5, Even Nelson, a pioneer, died in Albert Lea township. He was born in Norway, and came to Freeborn county in 1858. December 19, Mrs. Emily A. Chamberlain died at Albert Lea. She was born in New York, 1832, and came to Freeborn county in 1860. This year the present system of illuminating Broadway at Albert Lea was adopted.

**1910.** June 9, Mr. and Mrs W. H. Tunnell celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Albert Lea. September 25, Mrs. Harriet Barden, died at Rochester, Minnesota. She was born in Vermont, 1832, came to Freeborn county in the fifties. October 29, Gulbrand O. Bagaason, a pioneer of Freeborn county, died at Riceland. He was born in Norway, and came to Freeborn county 1856. Mrs. A. Barlow died in Bancroft. She was born in Germany, and came to Freeborn county at an early day. March 16, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Armstrong celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Hartland. August 24, Mrs. Isadora A. Campbell died in Albert Lea. She was born in Stowe, Vermont, 1849, and came to Freeborn county in 1857.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### AGRICULTURE.

**Advantages of Freeborn County as an Agricultural Region—Farming in the Early Days—Wheat as the Principal Crop—Gradual Decrease in the Raising of That Cereal—How the Settlers Obtained Their Land—Pests—Introduction of Dairying—Modern Implements and Improvements—Illumination—Registered Farms—Calamities—Agricultural Society.**

Freeborn county is one of the southern tier of counties of Minnesota and is about in the middle of the southern border, just across the line from Iowa. It has twenty townships, each six miles square; it extends thirty miles east and west and twenty-four miles north and south, and embraces 720 square miles. It has more than twenty lakes, and about 50,000 acres of choice farming land.

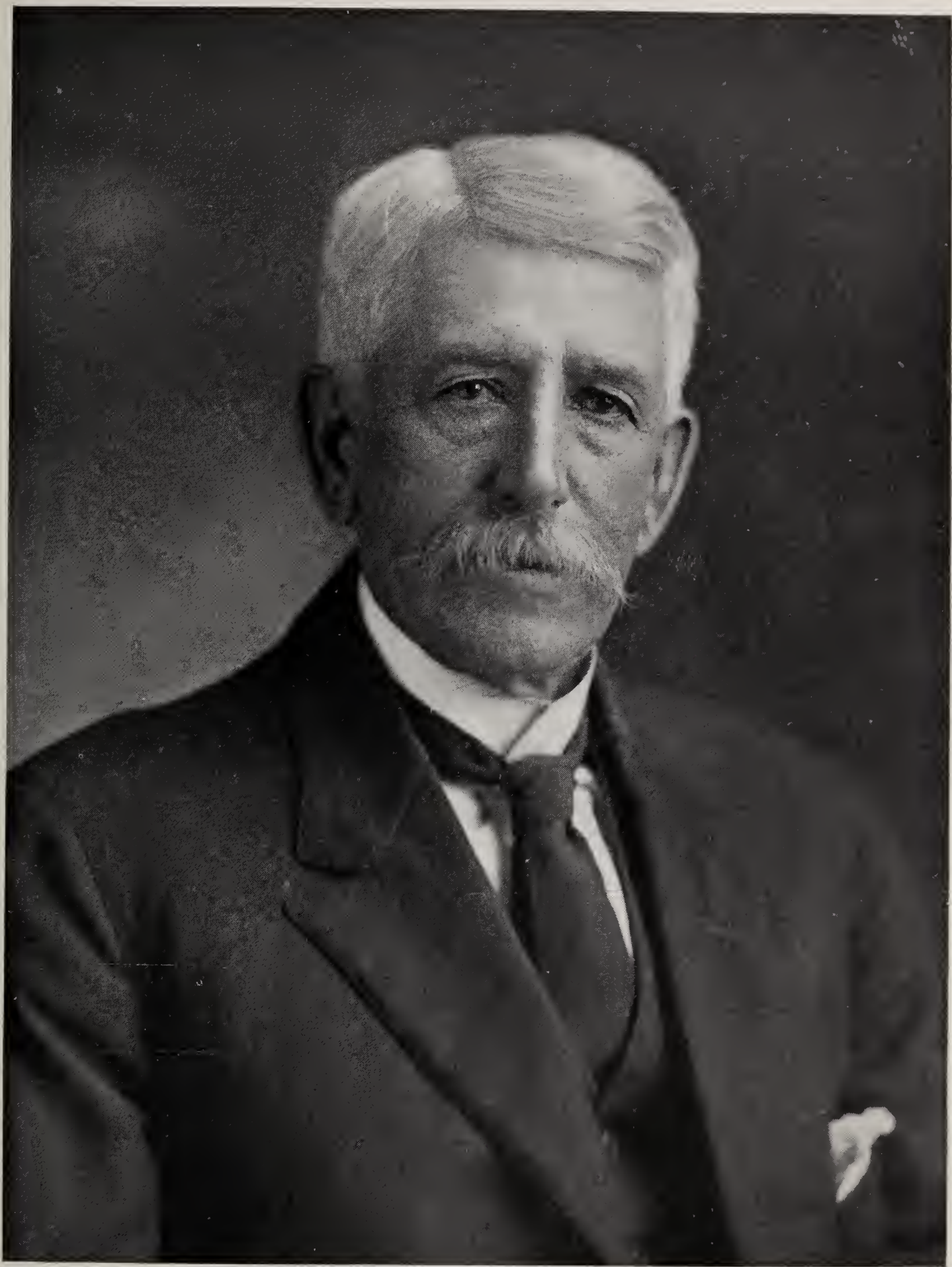
The surface of the county is gently undulating with a few rugged hills and a succession of groves and lakes that make the landscape wonderfully picturesque. The wagon roads are seldom on straight lines, but wind along lakes and through valleys. It occupies some of the highest farming land in the state, and is the watershed between the Minnesota and Mississippi river drainage slopes.

The altitude is about 1,200 feet. The Cobb finds its head waters in the northwestern part of the county and flows northward. The Shell Rock and a branch of the Cedar originate here and flow southward to join the Mississippi.

A few hundred feet below the surface the whole county is covered by a layer of limestone which is again covered by glacial drift. The surface soil, two to four feet deep, is a rich mould made by ages of vegetable deposits that have been blackened and enriched by annual fires till the productive energies of the soil seem inexhaustible. The subsoil is a compact clay that prevents leaching. The soil is alike tolerant of extreme moisture and drought, and for fifty-four years of settlement there have been no real failures in crops.

On certain levels artesian wells can be secured at a depth of about 100 feet, and the purest artesian water rises high in the tubular wells that are drilled through the first stratum of limestone, 150 to 300 feet below the surface. The timber, though





T. A. VANDEGRIFT





unevenly distributed, is abundant for domestic uses. There are deposits of peat in different sections of the county, but as yet little use has been made of it. Some use has been made of the clay. There are few natural sources of wealth, however, except the matchless fertility of the soil.

The people represent a large number of nationalities; Americans, Scandinavians, Germans, English, Irish and Bohemians predominating. One settler came into the county in 1853. A few families came in 1855, and by 1857, the tide of immigration had fairly begun. The population of Freeborn county is 22,435.

Freeborn is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous agricultural and stock-raising counties in Minnesota. Its people are wide awake and keep step with the procession in industry and culture. The first settlers of the county were mostly farmers, and they were, with but few exceptions, poor men, as is the case in the history of every agricultural region. In fact, few had more than enough to barely get settled upon their lands; but they came with that which was in those days equal to it—training in agricultural pursuits, brawny hands that were able and not ashamed to work, and in connection with industrious habits, the energy and determination to win success. The country was new, and there was no alternative but that success must be wrought from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only hope. And, in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, notwithstanding the fact that the whole aim of the farming community has changed, success attended their efforts. Nor is the end yet reached, but the county has a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which as years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the agricultural population becomes more and more able to utilize it.

Early in the development of this country, wheat was the main product, and for a number of years excellent crops were raised with scarcely a failure. At the present time wheat has given up its former place to other cereals, and farmers find many other avenues in which to devote their time and energy.

The farms of Freeborn county are similar to the farms of any other county, having a rich soil. It has its good farms and its poor farms. Agriculture, like every other trade or profession, has its failures and successes, but perhaps not so many complete failures.

The high altitude gives to Freeborn county an ideal climate. Its mean temperature for summer is 70 degrees, the same as middle Illinois, Ohio and southern Pennsylvania. The extreme heat that is felt in these states is here tempered by the breezes of the elevated plateau. Its higher latitude gives two hours more of sunshine than at Cincinnati. This with an abundance of rainfall,



26.36 inches annually, on a rich soil, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops and their early maturity. There is a uniformity of temperature during the winter season in southern Minnesota, with bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, good sleighing and infrequent thaws that make life a pleasure in this bracing, healthy climate.

The soil is for the most part a deep, rich, warm loam with clay subsoil. Cultivation is easy and "irrigation and dry farming" that one hears so much about to-day, and which is so necessary to secure a crop on much of the new lands that are being opened up in the West, at so great an expense, are not needed here. During the past few years a number of farms have been tiled and with such marked success that within a few years most of the farms will be improved in this respect. The lay of the land is such that almost every farmer gets good drainage without difficulty. Two large factories manufacturing clay tile are located in the county and have a large total output.

Freeborn county has good roads and in several road districts its roads are as fine as a city's streets, thanks to the efficient work of townships good road organizations and to the use of the split-log drag.

The first settlers found here a rich, unbroken virgin soil, a land that had none but nature's care from time immemorial. Century after century, year after year, the grasses grew in all their richness and the prairie flowers bloomed to waste their fragrance on the summer air. No foot trod the unbroken stretches save that of wild beasts or bird, or the red warrior. No plow-share turned the green sod, nor was it torn by the iron tooth of the harrow, from the time an almighty power had unrolled it like a carpet until 1853, when a solitary pioneer settled here, and started raising a few vegetables for the use of his family.

Freeborn county has no state highways of macadam. The roads, which are made of the soil of the county, on the whole are good, and some of them are kept in the best of condition. This county understood road-building in the earliest days, and the greatest volume of business done by the early county commissioners and supervisors was in establishing road districts and providing for the maintenance of highways.

There was a time in Freeborn county when, like all new lands, the first consideration was to build good barns for the housing of the flocks and herds, and the home was the most inconspicuous object in the landscape. As the farmers prospered the log house disappeared and now there are not a half dozen log houses in the entire county. Now the farmer's house vies with the city residence, and has many of the modern conveniences. Where electric light and power cannot be secured, gasoline engines furnish



power, and a number of farm houses are lighted by their own gas plants. By the use of elevated tanks in the house or barn, or pneumatic tanks in cellars, farm houses often have all the sanitary conveniences of a house in town. Our farmers recognize the value of keeping their property in the best of shape. Houses and barns are well painted, lawns are carefully kept and flower gardens show that our people recognize that the things which beautify add a value to life as well as to property.

The first two problems which confronted the early settlers were sustenance and shelter. The wagon in which the settlers came, the dug-out, the sod house, or the log cabin provided shelter. The ground must provide the sustenance. The settlers found here a rolling prairie surfaced with rich soil and with but little timber to be cut, the land being what is generally described as bur-oak openings. To break the sod, a breaking plow drawn by four yoke of oxen was required, the neighbors pooling their interests and helping each other. By this method, about one and a quarter acres of land could be broken a day. In this way, the settlers had a few acres broken, and started raising such food stuffs as were needed for their own tables. The settlers of 1855 and 1856 raised some corn and vegetables. The hopes of crops in 1857 was blasted, and there ensued the hard winter of 1857-58, during which the people existed on little more than cornmeal.

In 1858 and 1859 the crops were better, and in 1860, when Governor Alexander Ramsey issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, the soil of Freeborn county had brought forth its increase in abundant measure.

In 1860, however, just at the time of this promising prosperity, the people of Freeborn county were thrown into a state of consternation by the announcement that on October 29, 1860, the land in Freeborn county would be offered for sale. This would have resulted in the practical impoverishment of the people of Freeborn county. A few had proved up on their claims, paid the necessary \$1.25 an acre in cash, or surrendered the proper value of land warrants, and secured clear titles to their lands. But most of the settlers had little money, and the sale would deprive them of their claims, their improvements and their homes. A meeting to consider ways and means was held at Albert Lea, and after much discussion, Col. G. W. Skinner was sent to Washington to see what could be done about the matter. A petition was also addressed to President James Buchanan. Colonel Skinner reported that the land could not be withdrawn from sale, but that land which was not sold could be filed on the day after the sale. Accordingly a committee was appointed to put in an appearance at the sales, and see that no bids were made on land already



occupied in Freeborn county. No occupied land being sold, the occupants the next day refiled on their own claims. Some, later, purchased their claims at the pre-emption price of \$1.25 an acre, while others were secured in the possession of their improvements by the Homestead laws which were subsequently enacted. The Civil war caused a severe setback in the progress of Freeborn county agriculture. At the outbreak of the war, the county was on the road to success and prosperity. Improved land was worth from \$5.00 to \$10.00 an acre, and more land was being broken each year. The average cultivated field consisted of some twenty or thirty acres, upon which wheat was the principal crop; other vegetables and grains being raised practically for home use only. But the war called the able-bodied men to the front, and the old men, the invalids, and the women and children were left to operate the farms as best they could.

The year 1869 marked an important epoch in the agricultural history of Freeborn county. It was this year that the Southern Minnesota came through, and provided an output for the Freeborn county wheat, thus making Albert Lea a wheat center of considerable importance. Previous to this, grain had been carted to McGregor, Iowa, or Hastings, Red Wing or Winona. Railroad facilities gave impetus to all farm pursuits, and thousands of acres of wild land were broken every year, from 1869 to 1877. The latter year marked the greatest wheat crop of the finest quality that the county has ever known. The next year the crop was much smaller, and grain raising in the county has, since 1877, gradually decreased, corn-raising and dairying taking its place.

The farmers of Freeborn county have had many difficulties to overcome. The gophers, the blackbirds and the prairie chickens were deadly enemies to the crops from the earliest days. Then, too, the climate presented difficulties, for although most of the settlers had considerable experience as farmers, their experience had been in warmer sections, and the climate here, with its early frosts, was a new condition to which they must become accustomed.

The insect pests were not strongly in evidence in the early days. The most serious of these pests, the Colorado beetle, better known as the potato bug, put in an appearance in 1865, and flourished until 1870, when the Paris-green method of killing them was introduced, since which date they have been fought successfully. In 1866 the rats made their first appearance in the county, brought here by immigration. Snakes have always been plentiful, but with the exception of certain areas in Shell Rock, in the early days, the deadly rattlers have never been a menace to the Freeborn county husbandman. In 1873 the grasshopper plague began



to work its ravages in the state, but the greatest damage done in Freeborn county by the grasshoppers was in 1876. That year this pest did much damage in the western part of the county, but even there, while the cause of great destruction, they did not totally consume the vegetation, as in some districts in the state.

In 1890 came the greatest impetus of Freeborn county farming, the co-operative creamery and the cream separator being introduced that year. The growth of the dairying interests is discussed in another chapter.

The story of the primitive tools used in the early days, the gradual introduction of modern machinery, and in installation of the windmill, the silo, the hand separator and other improvements is a history which this county has in common with all the other counties of southern Minnesota. The almost exclusive use of oxen in the early days, the gradual introduction after the war of horses for farm work, and the still more gradual introduction of steam and motor power is also a tale that can be told of all the counties in this region, and is not peculiar to Freeborn county.

The history of the agriculture of Freeborn county would not be complete without mention of the subject of illumination. The original use of the tallow dip and the candle, the gradual introduction of coal oil, and the installation in the larger villages of gas and electricity, is the common experience of all new countries. But in this county, there is still another development, that being the introduction in the homes of the gas lights manufactured by two companies in Albert Lea, and giving anywhere at a very low cost, an illumination superior to that enjoyed by the patrons of gas and electric plants in the largest cities.

**The Grange.** During the time of the Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, flourished throughout the country, Freeborn county was particularly active in perfecting these organizations, until at one time in the early eighties, no less than twenty-five Granges, with a central county Grange, were in existence in Freeborn county. Gradually, however, the societies were allowed to lapse, but not, however, until greatly benefited farming conditions had resulted. Two years ago efforts were made to revive the society in this county and Granges were started at Albert Lea and Alden. The one in Alden is still in existence.

**Registered Farms.** Several progressive agriculturists in Freeborn county have registered the names of their places at the court house. The names registered are as follows:

December 22, 1909, H. Hong, River View Stock and Dairy farm, section 36, Albert Lea. December 16, 1909, Knudt Overland, Oakland Grain and Stock farm, section 1, Nunda. January 27, 1910, M. J. Doud, Mt. Vernon Poultry and Stock farm, sec-



tion 28, Newry. March 9, 1910, F. C. Olson, Golden Hill Stock farm, section 30, Hayward. October 8, 1910, Edmund W. Hall, Maplewood farm, section 20, Manchester. November 30, 1910, A. G. Runden, Pleasant View farm, section 4, Freeman. N. E. Lestegaard, Oak Lake Stock farm, section 25 and 26, Newry. Lewis Anderson, Oakland Stock farm, section 14, London. June 24, 1909, Jas. P. Nelson, Maple Leaf Store farm, section 23, Bancroft. June 26, 1909, H. A. Freemott, Pleasant Grove farm, section 5, Alden. July 9, 1909, M. J. Harty, White Light farm, section 3, Geneva. August 30, 1909, Daniel Hess, Side Brook farm, section 23, Freeman. August 30, 1909, Daniel Hess, Fairview farm, section 24, Freeman. September 20, 1909, Lauritz Peterson, The Evergreen farm, section 16, Manchester. September 29, 1909, J. P. Kiel, Meadow Brook farm, section 36, Bancroft. Lewis Anderson, Oakland Stock farm, section 14, London. September 11, 1911, Hickory farm, section 2, Ninda. John D. McCall, Oak Lake Stock farm, section 25 and 26, Newry, N. E. Lestegaard.

**The Freeborn County Agricultural Society.** Agricultural societies and fairs of one sort or another have been in existence in Freeborn county at intervals since the earliest days. The present agricultural society dates from 1891, when W. A. Morin, Dr. A. C. Wedge, T. A. Vandegrift and others organized a society and started holding fairs at Dr. Wedge's farm, west of the city. T. A. Vandegrift was the first president and Leander Thomas the first secretary. The fairs were held on the farm for many years, and several temporary buildings were erected. Later it became impossible to continue this arrangement, and there ensued an interval, during which several street fairs were held. April 24, 1903, in pursuance with a special act of the legislature, the county purchased forty-five acres northeast of the city, from A. C. Wedge and Laura A. Jenson, guardians of John L. Spicer, then a minor. The grounds have been graded, a race track laid out, a grand stand and various buildings erected, and other improvements made. The annual fairs are largely attended, and do much toward bettering agricultural conditions; aside from furnishing recreation, and offering suitable rewards in all lines of endeavor, extending from work by the school children to stock raised by the farmers. C. L. Luce, the president of the association, is an enthusiastic booster of the project, and has done much toward making the fairs a success. O. M. Peterson is the secretary and D. C. Armstrong the treasurer. The board of county commissioners constitute a board of supervisors, and Ole A. Hammer, the chairman of that body, has made the fair a matter for special activity. Every voter in the county is entitled to exercise the rights of membership in this association.



**CALAMITIES.**

Late in the afternoon of June 15, 1892, one of the most destructive cyclones recorded in the history of Freeborn county, entered the county at the west line of Freeborn township. It swept back and forth about three miles north of the village of Freeborn, and passed into Hartland, where one section crossed a mile north of the village, and another, went north through towns in Waseca and Steele counties. The storm entered Freeborn township from Fairbault county and swept across the township in a northeasterly direction. It crossed the county line, after demolishing the residence and other buildings of Edward Tellet, in Fairbault county. The first place which the storm struck in Freeborn was the Althouse farm, owned by Mr. Nelson. Here the barn and out-buildings were demolished, and nearby barns belonging to John Larrabee, J. Tellet and Samuel Lowry were blown down. The house of Mr. Steen and family was next struck and here the only fatal result of the storm in this township occurred. A son, seven years of age, was killed and the wife and daughter seriously injured. A barn and granary belonging to Truman Bowen was next blown down, also a large barn of Henry Thades'. From Mr. Thades' place the storm seemed to move north for a half a mile or more, to the school section. Here, it is said, three gigantic clouds came together forming a funnel shaped mass, which whirled like a spinning wheel. It first struck the house and stables belonging to M. Evenson, and injured all the members of the family, carrying one child into a field, where he was found two hours later. About eighty rods to the northwest stood the house of Mr. Shequin, which had been erected two years previous. This was struck by the storm and scattered over the fields. The family had seen the cloud and taken refuge in a straw stable, so escaped injury. The next damage reported was the destruction of Halvor Westby's house, outbuildings, machinery and windmill. Mr. Westby and his wife having taken refuge in the cellar, were uninjured. Across the road from the Westby place stood the home of Thomas Johnson. This had the roof blown off, and the granary, horse stable, and most of his farm machinery was destroyed. About sixty rods north of Mr. Johnson's home stood the new house belonging to Emory McColley. This was blown to pieces. Mrs. McColley and her two children had taken refuge in a milk cellar and so escaped. Mr. McColley was away at the time. The storm next struck the house on the Southwick place, which was occupied by Hans Amundson. Mr. Amundson, his wife and four children were in the house, which was lifted from its foundation and carried several rods, then dashed ot pieces, injuring all members of the



family. The Dwyer farm was next struck and considerable damage done, after which the storm crossed Spicer Lake and blew down a house, injuring the occupant. On the east side of the lake stood an unoccupied house belonging to Lincoln Drake; this was blown down and with it a greater part of the grove which surrounded it. Some distance beyond this farm stood the fine residence of F. D. Drake; this was crushed as were also his machinery shed, well house and wind mill, and the granary, unroofed. Andrew Paulson's house on the east side of the town was swept away and with it the outbuildings and machinery. The following is a summary of the damage done in Freeborn township: F. D. Drake, \$2,000; Halvor Westby, \$1,000; James Shequin, \$700; Mickle Evenson, \$500; Thomas Johnson, \$700; Emory McColly, \$400; Andrew Paulson, \$700; Mahlon Steen, \$500; Hans Amundson, \$200; O. F. Southwick, \$400; Lincoln Drake, \$200; Dazelle Bros., \$150; also barns belonging to Henry Thade, Jay Tellet, Sam Lowry, Truman Bowen and others. After leaving Freeborn township the storm swept through Hartland and Bath. F. E. Phipps, the day after the storm, wrote the following description of the damage done in Hartland and Bath townships: "As the result of the storm which passed through this region, Andrew Hanson is dead. He was standing in Chris Nygard's barn door, and instantly killed. Ole Nygard, who was standing near, was saved by oats from a bin above covering him, but he was somewhat injured. Peter Hanson saved the lives of himself and family by going into a cellar. J. J. Sullivan lost a new house, which was nearly completed. Chris Nygard lost a barn, wind mill, farm machinery and a valuable horse, and several horses were injured. Frank Kruger lost a large and costly barn, and a stone wall three feet thick was demolished while his grove fruit trees and windmill were nearly entirely demolished. Thomas Brothers lost a windmill, granary and a part of their grove. Carl Hendrickson lost a barn, windmill, and a greater part of his grove. Chris. M. Christopherson lost half of the roof of his house and shanty. Halvor Siblrud lost a large barn, outbuildings, windmill and a part of his grove. The schoolhouse in District 85 was completely demolished. Lynne Bros. lost a large barn, which had recently been completed, also his windmill, outbuildings and grove were practically destroyed. Dennis Nolan's windmill, milkhouse water tank and other property were destroyed. M. Sheehan's wind mill and outbuildings were destroyed, and James Lorgerson's house across the line in Steele county was destroyed. The Lutheran church building in Berlin was entirely demolished. After leaving Hartland and Bath, the storm entered Geneva, and M. M. Jones' residence was overturned, landing first on the roof and then turning on its side. Several persons were in the house



at this time and severely injured. John Hinds' house was turned around and others of his buildings were destroyed. A school-house in Steele county was utterly demolished.

On July 5, 1902, a furious hurricane swept across Freeborn county from the southwest. It passed across the first ward of the city of Albert Lea and, striking the baseball ground, lifted the grand stand, carried it about twenty-five feet, then hurled it to the ground, completely demolishing it. The gale then seemed to leap to Fountain and Water streets, where it twisted off trees which were a foot in diameter, also broke limbs from other trees. A portion of H. H. Dunn's residence on Vine street was entirely denuded of shingles. Several barns nearby were moved from their foundation and partly wrecked. The gale also swept to the lake and did considerable damage to the trees at Ballard's Point, and many trees further south of the city were more or less injured. Fierce hurricanes also visited other portions of the county at this time. At Freeborn village many trees were torn off, and a large barn, located about a mile to the north, owned by I. H. Seath, was demolished. Mr. Seath and a man were in the barn at the time milking, but they escaped without serious injury, as did also the horses and cattle. After doing a great deal of damage in the northern part of this county the storm passed on into adjoining counties, where it wrecked homes and killed several people.

On Sunday afternoon, July 23, 1895, a heavy rain storm in Albert Lea and adjacent townships was followed by one of the worst cyclones which had ever visited the county. This seemed to form in Morin and Mason's pasture west of Alden, then it leaped a distance of six miles and struck the farm owned by William Schmidt, in Section 30, Pickerel Lake. Here it wrought great havoc; the large barn with its contents was entirely destroyed, while outbuildings, fences and trees were torn down. It then swept to Fred Yost's farm on Section 29, where it hurled a new barn into the air, scattered it on the fields, wrecked a windmill and outbuildings, twisted trees and killed a horse and cow. Herman Klukow's place on the northwest quarter of Section 30 was next struck, and here a barn was demolished, a corner of his residence torn away, a small granary lifted and tossed over high willow trees, then set down; chimneys were blown down and a water tank was carried back from the course of the cyclone, and large trees twisted and broken. The storm then swept across the farm of August Lenz and tore the windmill off its tower and did other damage, after which it swept to William Marpe's farm, where it reached the climax of its fury. Its pathway, which had been about ten rods in width, here widened to a width of nearly 100 rods. Mr. Marpe's large barn was destroyed, part of his resi-

dence torn away, the windmill, corn crib, machine sheds, were hurled to destruction. George Hall's home was next struck, and his windmill wrecked and other damage done. Here the storm rose and spread through the southern part of Albert Lea and Freeman townships, where it turned into a wild gale of rain and hail and destroyed many fields of grain.







W. A. BESSESEN, M. D.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

**Importance of the Medical Profession—The Pioneer Doctors—History of Medicine in this County Begins with Dr. A. C. Wedge—Medical Associations—The Albert Lea District Medical Association—The Freeborn County Medical Society.**

“Men most nearly resemble the gods when  
They afford health to their fellow men.”

In an age when, in the combat of man against man, heroes are worshipped according to the number they slay in battle, it is inspiring and elevating to be permitted to pay tribute to the men who won glory in fighting disease and through whose devotion and skill thousands of useful lives have been saved and been made happy.

For every man slain by Caesar, Napoleon and Grant in all their bloody campaigns, Jenners, Pasteur and Lister have saved alive a thousand. The first anaesthetic has done more for the real happiness of mankind than all the philosophers from Socrates to Mills. Society laurels the soldier and the philosopher and practically ignores the physician. Few remember his labors, for what Sir Thomas Browne said three hundred years ago is surely true: “The iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit to perpetuity.”

Medicine is the most cosmopolitan of the three great “learned” professions. Medicine never built a prison or lit a fagot, never incited men to battle or crucified any one. Saint and sinner, white and black, rich and poor, are equal and alike when they cross the sacred portals of the temple of Aesculapius. No other secular profession has ever reached such a consciousness of duties which it corporately owes to the rest of the world. What are the principles which a profession, more profuse in its disinterested charities than any other profession in the world has established for its guidance?

It was about 2,300 years that the practitioners of the art of healing began to take an oath emphasizing the responsibilities which the nobility and holiness of the art imposed upon them. Hippocrates, forever to be revered, gave the oath his name.

Robert Louis Stevenson, seeing the life of the medical man only from without, was not far wrong when he spoke of the modern scientific medical man as probably the noblest figure of the age. The noble and exalted character of the ancient profession of medicine is surpassed by no sister science in the magnificence of its gift. Reflecting upon its purity, beneficence and grandeur it must be accorded to be the noblest of professions. Though the noblest of professions it is the newest of trades. Unless the physician will live a life of purity, of virtue, of honor and of honesty, he should seek a livelihood elsewhere, and "insult not the gods by striving through base methods and ignoble ambitions in resembling them."

The true physician will make his profession no trade, but will administer his duties with the love of man in his heart and the glory of God in his soul, his aim will be: to be accurate in diagnosis and painstaking in prescribing, to allow no prejudice nor theory to interfere with the relief of human suffering and the saving of human life; to lay under contribution every source of information, be it humble or exalted, that can be made useful in the cure of disease; to be kind to the poor, sympathetic with the sick, ethical toward medical colleagues and courteous toward all men; to regard his calling as that of one anointed to holy office, firmly convinced that no nobler work can be given to man and to go forth to his labor with love for humanity, inspired with a reverent assurance that for this cause came he into the world.

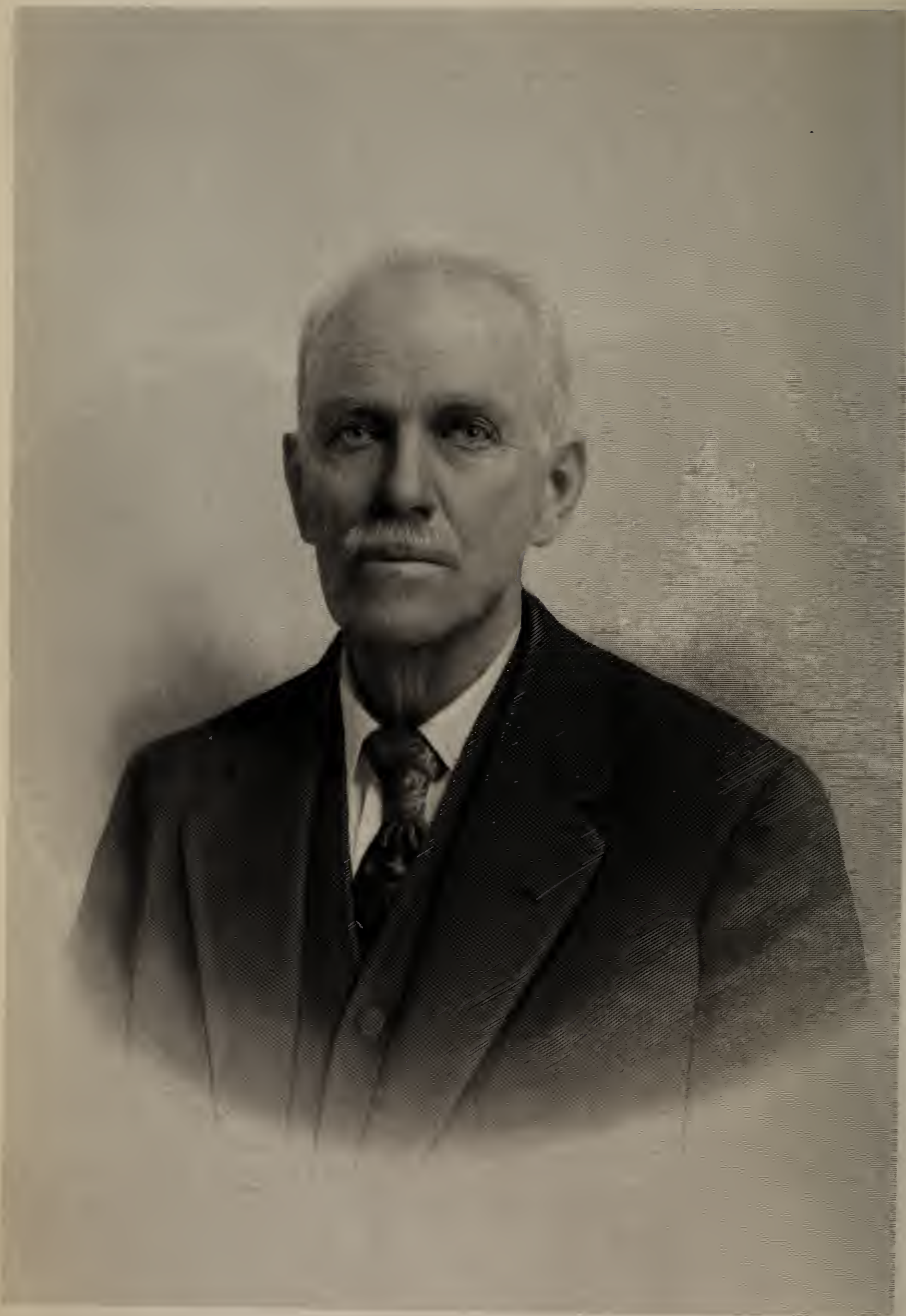
The reward of such a man, says Prof. T. Gaillard Thomas, "comes from the hand of no emperor; his glory from the appreciation of no applauding multitude; his renown from the pen of no fulsome historian. For him the victor's crown comes from the hand of the immortal God. He that has done the greatest good for his fellow man, has, in the doing of it, won the greatest reward in earth's possession, even though no mortal man know of the deed but him!"

The true physician is he who has a proper conception and estimation of the real character of his profession: whose intellectual and moral fitness give weight, standing and character in the consideration and estimation of society and the public at large. His privileges and powers for good or for evil are great; in fact no other profession, calling or vocation in this life occupies such a delicate relation to the human family.

There is a tremendous developing and educating power in medical work. The medical man is almost the only member of the community who does not make money out of his important discoveries. It is a point of honor with him to allow the whole world to profit by his researches when he finds a new remedy for disease. The greatest and best medical and surgical discoveries







*A H Street*



and inventions have been free gifts to suffering humanity the moment their value was demonstrated. The reward of the physician is in the benefit which the sick and helpless receive, and in the gratitude, which should not be stinted, of the community at large. Medical men are not angels; they are in fact very human creatures with hard work to do, and often many mouths to feed; but there is a strain of benevolence in all their work. From the beginning they are taught a doctrine of helpfulness to others, and are made to think that their life work should not be one in which every service must receive its pecuniary reward. The physician is a host in himself, a natural leader among his fellow-men, a center of influence for the most practical good, an efficient helper in times of direst need, a trusted and honest citizen. What more can any prophet ask than honor in his own country and a daily welcome among his own friends!

It does not take long for the waves of oblivion to close over those who have taken a most prominent and active part in the affairs of the day. The life of the pioneer doctor is no exception to this law, for as Dr. John Browne tells us, "It is the lot of the successful medical practitioner to be invaluable when alive, and to be forgotten soon after he is dead, and this is not altogether or chiefly from any special ingratitude or injustice on the part of mankind, but from the very nature of the case." However, the pioneer physician still lives in the memory of many of us, though he is now more rare as an individual than in the years gone by, and is gradually passing out of existence. The history, written and unwritten, of the pioneer physician of Freeborn county, as elsewhere, presents him to view as working out the destiny of the wilderness, hand in hand with the other forces of civilization for the common good. He was an integral part of the primitive social fabric. As such he shared the manners, the customs, the aims, and the ambitions of his companions, and he, with them, was controlled by the forces which determine the common state and the common destiny. The chief concern of himself and companions were materially engaged with the serious problem of existence. The struggle to survive was, at its best, a competition with nature. Hard winters and poor roads were the chief impediments. Only rough outlines remain of the heroic and adventurous side of the pioneer physician's long, active and honored life. The imagination cannot, unaided by the facts, picture the primitive conditions with which he had to contend. Long and dreary rides, by day and night, in summer's heat and winter's cold, through snow, and mud, and rain, was his common lot. He trusted himself to the mercy of the elements, crossed unbridged streams, made his way through uncut forests, and traveled the roadless wilderness. He spent one-fifth of his life in



his conveyance, and in some cases traveled as many as two hundred thousand miles in the same.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has graphically described the old doctor's daily routine: "Half a dollar a visit—drive, drive, drive, all day; get up in the night and harness your own horse—drive again ten miles in a snowstorm; shake powders out of a vial—drive back again, if you don't happen to be stuck in a drift; no home, no peace, no continuous meals, no unbroken sleep, no Sunday, no holiday, no social intercourse, but eternal jog, jog, jog in a sulky."

He always responded to the call of the poor, and gave freely his services to those who could not pay without hardship. Who can narrate the past events in the life of such a man? His deeds were "written upon the tablets of loving and grateful hearts, and the hearts are now dust. The long and exhausting rides through storm, or mud or snow; the exposure to contagions; the patient vigils by the bedside of pain; the kindly deeds of charity; the reassuring messages to the despondent; the shielding of the innocent; the guarding of secrets; the numberless self-abnegations that cannot be tabulated, and are soon forgotten, like the roses of yesterday."

He was a lonely worker, and relied largely on his own unaided observation for his knowledge. Isolated by conditions of his life, he did not know the educating influences of society work. He was a busy man, with little leisure for the indulgence of literary or other tastes. He possessed, however, what no books or laboratories can furnish, and that is: a capacity for work, willingness to be helpful, broad sympathies, honesty, and a great deal of common sense. His greatest fame was the fealty of a few friends; his recompense a final peace at life's twilight hour. He was a hardworking man, beloved and revered by all. He was discreet and silent, and held his counsel when he entered the sick-room. In every family he was indispensable, important, and oftentimes a dignified personage. He was the adviser of the family in matters not always purely medical. As time passed, the circle of his friends enlarged, his brain expanded, and his heart steadily grew mellow. Could all the pleasant, touching, heroic incidents be told in connection with the old doctor it would be a revelation to the young physician of today; but he can never know the admiration and love in which the old doctor was held. "How like an angel light was his coming in the stormy midnight to the lonely cabin miles away from the nearest neighbor. Earnest, cheery, confident, his presence lightened the burden, took away the responsibility, dispelled the gloom.



The first resident physician in Freeborn county was Dr. A. C. Wedge, who arrived in Albert Lea, May 10, 1857, and opened an office at once. Previous to this, Dr. Orlenzer Allen, who settled in Austin in April, 1856, had cared for a few patients in this county. Dr. Franklin Blackmer came to Albert Lea township in 1857, and during the war, when Dr. Wedge was absent in the South, practiced medicine to some extent, although he had practically retired from medical life before coming here. In 1857, Dr. A. M. Burnham practiced a short time, but soon ceased. Some years later he again practiced in the county for a while. Mrs. E. C. Stacy practiced in Geneva, before moving to Albert Lea, and during the war her services as a physician were greatly in demand. These were the first to practice medicine in Freeborn county.

There have at various times been medical associations in Freeborn county, from a very early day. These associations, however, were for the most part strictly local affairs—gatherings of men drawn together was the bonds of common interests and common work. It was not until 1903 that the present medical society was born.

**The Albert Lea District Medical Association** was organized October 20, 1898. Dr. A. C. Wedge was named as temporary chairman and H. H. Wilcox temporary secretary. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Dr. A. C. Wedge, Albert Lea; first vice-president, Dr. W. H. Jones, Forest City; second vice-president, Dr. J. Watson, Alden; secretary, Dr. H. H. Wilcox, Albert Lea; treasurer, Dr. Thos. M. Stixrud, Northwood. The physicians present at the meeting were: W. H. Jones, P. H. Vesterborg, Forest City; A. C. Wedge, G. W. Barck, G. A. Stevenson, H. Nissen, F. A. Blackmer, G. G. Beisheim, W. E. Todd, J. P. von Berg, G. H. Briggs, H. H. Wilcox, Albert Lea; L. C. Cowies, John Watson, Alden; L. G. Hewitt, Thos. M. Stixrud, Northwood; W. S. Wood, Geneva; N. C. Thimsen, Emmons; W. L. Palmer, Glenville.

**The Freeborn County Medical Society** was organized January 2, 1903, and a year later absorbed the Albert Lea District Medical Association. This new society was organized in accordance with the provisions made by the ethical physicians of the United States for the organization of a national, state and local societies, all of which were to be related to each other.

At the organization of the Medical Society in 1903, Dr. A. C. Wedge was elected president. He served until May, 1907, when by his own request he was retired, being succeeded by Dr. G. W. Barck, who in 1909 was succeeded by Dr. J. P. von Berg, who is still serving. Dr. H. H. Wilcox, the first secretary, was succeeded

in 1904 by G. A. Stevenson. Dr. O. A. Burton served as secretary pro-tem, during Dr. Stevenson's term, and was himself elected in 1905. He served until 1907, and was followed by Dr. O. E. Rodli, who in 1911 was succeeded by Robert G. Stevenson. Dr. W. L. Palmer, the first vice-president is still serving. There was an interval, however, from 1908 to 1911, when Dr. J. P. Freeman held the position. Dr. J. P. von Berg, the first treasurer, was succeeded in 1909 by Dr. J. R. Nannestad.

In addition to these there have been boards of censors, committees, delegates to conventions and the like, elected and appointed by the society.

Those who have been admitted to the Medical Society are as follows: A. C. Wedge, H. H. Wilcox, J. P. von Berg, Henrik Nissen, G. W. Barck, G. A. Stevenson, W. E. Todd, W. L. Palmer, J. P. Freeman, Robert Williams, Oscar A. Burton, T. F. McKey, O. E. Rodli, Mary E. Hood, J. R. Nannestad, W. A. Bessessen, F. A. Blackmer, Byron A. Kamp, F. Gramenz, John Christiansen, Robert G. Stevenson, David Gordon, A. V. Garlock, F. W. Calhoun, John W. Kurz, and W. W. Johnston. Nearly all are still members.

The physicians of Freeborn county at the present time are as follows: Albert Lea—A. C. Wedge (retired), G. W. Barck, W. A. Bessessen, T. F. McKey, F. W. Calhoun, David Gordon, Oscar A. Burton, F. Gramenz, Mary E. Hood, J. R. Nannestad, W. L. Palmer, O. E. Rodli, Robert G. Stevenson, W. E. Todd, J. P. von Berg and P. H. Muus. Alden—Byron A. Kamp, G. A. Stevenson and James Christiansen. Emmons—J. A. Schultz. Glenville—J. P. Freeman. Hartland—A. V. Garlock. Geneva—W. W. Johnston. M. L. Head, formerly a physician at Hartland, has retired and is now engaged in stock farming.







DAVID R. P. HIBBS



## CHAPTER XIX.

### MILITARY HISTORY.

**Freeborn County at the Outbreak of the Civil War—Raising of First Company—Other Companies Raised in this County—Roll of Honor—Names of Freeborn County Veterans—Battle Scarred Relic—Siege of Ft. Ridgley—Reminiscences of the War—Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R.—State Militia Companies—Albert Lea Light Guards—Co. I, First Regiment, M. N. G.—The Spanish American War.**

When President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 of the militia of the several states to maintain the Union April 15, 1861, Freeborn county was but four years of age, as an organized county, and had a scattering population, all pioneers in a new state which became a part of the Union less than three years before the outbreak of the war. It was a cruel time to take the men from field, store, shop and home. They had little on which to depend save the labor of their hands, and their families needed them. But an attack had been made on Fort Sumter, the flag of the Union had been fired upon, and the hearts of these hardy patriotic men and women were fired. At this time Alexander Ramsey, governor of Minnesota, chanced to be in Washington and immediately sought Secretary Cameron, and in writing tendered 1,000 soldiers from Minnesota in defense of the government, which offer was presented to the president and by him accepted. This was the first offer of troops made during the Rebellion. The governor telegraphed these facts to the adjutant general of the state, with orders to make a call for troops. The call, however, did not reach Freeborn county in time for any of her sons to be included in the original muster of the first regiment.

In the summer of 1861, the people of Freeborn county began to realize the pressing needs of the country, and Asa W. White determined to raise a company. Accordingly, a meeting was called at Albert Lea, at which men from all parts of the country were present. Judge E. C. Stacy was chairman. Rousing speeches were made, songs were sung, and a company was raised. This company was mustered in as Co. F, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, at Fort Snelling, November 11, 1861, with Asa W. White as captain.

In January, 1862, it was determined to raise another com-

pany, and Timothy J. Sheehan and Frank B. Fobes, then members of Captain White's company, came home to enlist the nucleus of Freeborn county's second company. Francis Hall became interested, and the little band was soon swelled to the required number for a company, which was accordingly mustered in at Ft. Snelling March 9, 1862, with Hall as captain, Sheehan as first lieutenant and Fobes as second lieutenant.

In the meantime Captain Mons Grinager raised a company of Norwegians, who enlisted in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

But the war clouds grew darker, and within a few months it became apparent that the county must do still more in defense of the union, and two more companies were raised.

Co. E, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was raised by Sheriff James A. Robson, and mustered into service September 8, 1862, with James A. Robson as captain, John W. Heath as first lieutenant, and Charles Kittleson as second lieutenant. Captain Robson was accidentally killed at Ft. Snelling in November, 1862, this being Freeborn county's first war sacrifice.

George S. Ruble raised Co. H, First Regiment Mounted Rangers, and was mustered in December 5, 1862, as its captain. The other commissioned officers were from other counties, but some twenty of the men were from Freeborn county. This company enlisted for one year, but many of the men afterward enlisted in other regiments for the remainder of the war.

December 1, 1864, Co. C, of the Second Minnesota Cavalry, was mustered into service, containing some twenty men from this county. Frederick L. Cutler, of Glenville, was second lieutenant, but this is not usually regarded as a Freeborn county company.

In October, 1864, Co. C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, was mustered into service, with George S. Ruble as senior first lieutenant, and many Freeborn county pioneers in the ranks.

The complete record of these regiments has many times been published and is beyond the scope of this history. It is sufficient to say that whether in the barracks or in the field, in camp or on long marches, opposing savage Indians in the Northwest, or fighting against the Confederates in the South, the Freeborn county soldiers showed their courage, their valor and their manliness.

### ROLL OF HONOR.

In this connection has been compiled from the adjutant-general's report, the names of the soldiers, who enlisted from Freeborn county. If any are omitted, it is not intentional, for great care has been exercised in collecting this matter, and none have



greater veneration for the brave soldier than the compilers of this volume. As the only possible way to ascertain enlistment of each soldier, is to depend upon the official reports as published under authority of the state, any mistakes in spelling names or the omission of them entirely, should be charged to such official reports.

Freeborn county was represented in the Union army as follows:

### SECOND INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in July, 1861, and originally commanded by Horatio Van Cleve. Ordered to Louisville, Ky., in October, 1861, and assigned to the Army of the Ohio. It was engaged in the following marches, battles, skirmishes and sieges, viz.: Mill Spring, January 19, 1862; siege of Corinth, in April, 1862, then transferred to the Army of the Tennessee; Bragg's Raid, Perryville, October 8, 1862; skirmishes of the Tullahoma campaign, Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863; Mission Ridge, November 28, 1863. Veteranized in January, 1864, and participated in the battles and skirmishes of the Atlanta campaign, viz.: Resaca, June 14, 15 and 16, 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864; Jonesboro; Sherman's March through Georgia and the Carolinas, and Bentonville, March 19, 1865. The men were mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn., July 11, 1865. This regiment covered itself with laurels at the battle of Mission Ridge, where they were badly cut up in a charge they made on the enemy's works. Few Minnesota regiments, if any, performed more long and laborious marches than the "Bloody Second."

Co. A.—Private, Wesley Rogers. Co. K.—Privates Warren Osborne, promoted corporal and sergeant.

### THIRD INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in October, 1861, and originally commanded by Col. Henry C. Lester, of Winona. Ordered to Nashville, Tenn., in March, 1862. Captured and paroled at Murfreesboro in July, 1862. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., thence to Minnesota. Engaged in the Indian expedition in 1862. Participated in the battle of Wood Lake in September, 1862. Ordered to Little Rock, Ark., in November, 1863. Veteranized in January, 1864. Engaged in battle of Fitzhugh's Woods, March 30, 1864. Ordered to Pine Bluff, Ark., in April, 1864; thence to Duvall's Bluff, September 2, 1865. Mustered out at Duvall's Bluff, September 2, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Dr. Albert C. Wedge entered the service as assistant surgeon of this regiment and was promoted to surgeon.

Co. D—Hendrick Peterson, corporal; promoted sergeant; Hans Enstrom, second lieutenant; promoted first lieutenant and captain; August Peterson, private.

Co. K—Private, Benjamin H. Langworthy.

#### FOURTH REGIMENT INFANTRY.

This regiment was originally commanded by Col. J. B. Sanborn, of St. Paul, organized December 23, 1861; ordered to Benton Barracks, Mo., April 19, 1862; assigned to army of the Mississippi, May 4, 1862, participated in the following Marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Siege of Corinth, April, 1862; Iuka, September 19, 1862; Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; siege of Vicksburg, Forty Hills, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, assault on Vicksburg, capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. Transferred from Seventeenth to Fifteenth corps; Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863; veteranized, January, 1864; Altoona, October, 1864; Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas; Bentonville, March 20, 1865, and Raleigh, April 14, 1865; mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 19, 1865; discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Co. C—William H. Long.

Co. F—Asa W. White, captain; Adrian K. Norton, first sergeant, promoted first lieutenant and captain; Osborne J. Wheeler, sergeant; Hannibal Bickford, sergeant; Reuben Williams, sergeant; Frank B. Fobes, sergeant, promoted second lieutenant; Loren Blackmer, corporal; Justice C. Stearns, corporal; Enoch Croy, corporal; Jeremiah Fredenburg, corporal; Richard A. White, corporal; Perry H. Jewett, corporal; Erastus D. Porter, corporal; Henry House, musician; John Pease, musician; John Cottrell, wagoner. Privates—Charles J. Allen, Charles Bromwich, Benjamin B. Baker, George Callahan, Almon H. Cottrell, Horace L. Dow, Lucas Eckhart, John Eichler, Elias B. Farr, William Fenholt, William S. Hand, Benjamin J. House, Chester Holcombe, John D. Hochstrasser, Milton M. Luce, William H. Lovell, Hiram M. Luce, Alexander Morrell, Charles Parvin, Ira O. Russell, James Shields, Hollis E. Sargent, Stillman Sanders, Alfred L. Taylor, Geo. C. Snyder, Joseph W. Burdick, Robert W. Bebee, Harrison Buckley, Jacob Croy, Frederick L. Cutler, Francis E. Drake, Ole I. Ellingson, Jacob C. Frost, Mahlon Frost, George W. Giles, Benjamin H. Hathaway, Barhart Habercrom, William Hanson, Joseph A. Knapp, Luther I. Lovell, Henry R. Loomis, Joseph Meyers, Orville F. Peck, William C. Peck, John Ryan, Martin L. Scoville, Nicholas J. Sandburg, Thomas Smith, Phineas R. Taylor, John Cottrell, John M. Geissler, Henry Holt,



R. M. Langdon, Gardner Loudon, Timothy J. Sheehan, William Oscar Ward, Charles White, Frederick S. Woodard, Nathan Thomas, William H. Lovell.

### FIFTH INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in May, 1862, and originally commanded by Col. Rudolph Borgesrode, of Shakopee. Ordered to Pittsburg Landing, May 9, 1862, leaving a detachment of three companies in Minnesota, garrisoning frontier posts. Participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Siege of Corinth, April and May, 1862. The detachment in Minnesota engaged with the Indians at Redwood, Minn., August 18, 1862, and siege of Fort Ridgely, August 20, 21 and 22, 1862; Fort Abercrombie, Dakota Territory, in August, 1862. The regiment was assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps and engaged in the battle of Iuka, September 18, 1862, and at Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; Jackson, May 14, 1863; and the siege of Vicksburg; assault of Vicksburg, May 22, 1863; Mechanicsburg, June 3, 1863; Richmond, June 15, 1863; Fort De Russey, Louisiana, March 14, 1864; Red River expedition in March, April and May, 1864; Lake Chicot, June 6, 1864, and Tupelo in June, 1864. Veteranized in July, 1864; Abbeyville, August 23, 1864; marched in September, 1864, from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, Mo, thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas state line; thence to St. Louis, Mo.; ordered to Nashville, November, 1864; battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864; Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in April, 1865; mustered out at Demopolis, Ala., September 6, 1865, and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn. It will be seen by the above record this regiment was in active service, yet comparatively very few were killed in battle.

Co. C—Francis Hall, captain, promoted major; Timothy J. Sheehan, first lieutenant, promoted captain; Frank B. Fobes, second lieutenant, promoted first lieutenant; Horatio D. Brown, first sergeant, promoted second lieutenant and adjutant of Eleventh Regiment; John P. Hicks, sergeant; Dorr K. Stacy, sergeant, promoted first lieutenant; Manhard A. Chamberlain, sergeant; Dwight E. Brooks, corporal; Horace M. Beach, corporal, promoted sergeant; John C. Ross, corporal, promoted sergeant; Wm. Young, corporal, promoted sergeant; John G. Godley, corporal, promoted sergeant; Wm. Thompson, corporal; Aaron Canfield, musician; Nathan E. Babcock, musician; John McCall, wagoner. Privates—David Ames, Leonard R. Beighley, Simeon Beighley, Charles H. Dills, Daniel Dills, Lyman A. Eggleston, Charles J. Grandy, Jerome P. Green, Philo Henry, William J. Horning, Lyman C. Jones, Isaac Kendall, Andrew J. Luther, Frank M. McReynolds, Terrence McMahan, Peter Nisson, Loriston C. Roberts,



Benjamin F. Ross, James M. Rice, Ole Oleson Stugo, Andrew W. St. John, Josiah Weakley, George H. Wiggins, Stephen L. Beardsley, L. W. Grandy, Frank A. Blackmer, Burton H. Carter, Wiffing Wadsworth, Fosten Narveson, Edward D. Brooks, Joel L. Bullock, David Crawford, Charles Dills, Samuel W. Dogan, Martin Ellingson, Andrew Gilbrandson, James Honan, Nathan A. Hunt, Richard O. Hitchcock, Curtis B. Kellar, Wm. F. Lawrence, Nicholas Lowthian, John Melchy, John B. Miller, Andrew Peterson, Charles O. Russell, Walter S. Russell, Isaac Shortledge, Even Oleson Stugo, John Smith, Oliver P. Williams, James Young, Jr., John Reed, John C. Ross.

Co. D—Private, Napoleon Hord. Co. F—Wagoner, Charles H. Bostwick. *Tobias W. Wadsworth Co. D*

### TENTH INFANTRY.

The regiment was organized in August, 1862, and originally commanded by Col. James H. Baker, of Mankato. It was stationed at frontier posts until June, 1863, when it was ordered upon the Indian expedition. Engaged with the Indians July 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31, 1863. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., in October, 1863; thence to Columbus, Ky., in April, 1864; thence to Memphis, Tenn., in June, 1864, and assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps. Participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Battle of Tupelo, July 13, 1864; Oxford expedition, August, 1864; march in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau; thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas line; thence to St. Louis, Mo.; battles of Nashville, Tenn., December 15 and 16, 1864; Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, April, 1865. The regiment was discharged at Fort Snelling, August 19, 1865.

Alfred H. Burnham was attached to the regiment as assistant surgeon and Louis Proebsting was promoted from hospital to assistant surgeon.

Co. E—James A. Robson, captain; John W. Heath, first lieutenant, promoted captain; Charles Kittleson, second lieutenant, promoted first lieutenant; Eli Ash, first sergeant, promoted second lieutenant and first lieutenant, Company G; Eli K. Pickett, sergeant, promoted second lieutenant, Co. I; George H. Partridge, sergeant; Wm. H. Lowe, sergeant; James L. Cook, sergeant; George Osborn, corporal; John G. Dunning, corporal; Henry D. Burlingame, corporal, promoted sergeant; Jedediah W. Devereux, corporal; Rufus Kelly, corporal; Alva S. Sterns, corporal; Christian Alspaugh, corporal; Lars Wicks, corporal; John L. Scoville, musician; Peter E. Olson, musician; Asa Hurd, wagoner; Daniel Anderson, private, promoted corporal; Andrew Black, private, promoted hospital steward; Cyrus



E. Bullock, private, promoted corporal; Loren S. Meeker, private, promoted commissary sergeant; Hiram J. Rice, private, promoted corporal. Privates—Andrew Anderson, Stengrew Benson, Samuel E. Bullock, Edwin Brownsill, Rodney M. Campbell, George H. Chandler, Russel B. Davis, Matthew L. Dearmin, William E. Everett, Andrew Anderson, Gilbert Barden James Bowen, Henry C. Bartlett, W. G. Carpenter, Fred. Chamberlain, Samuel Clark, Francis W. Davis, John Edson, Engbrit Erickson, George W. Gates, Thomas Iverson, Henry Johnson, John C. Kaiser, Fritz Maixner, Elijah W. Owen, Benjamin Park, Cyrus S. Prescott, Charles Peterson, Robert H. Reynolds, Jacob Stewart, Peter P. Shoyer, Leander J. Thomas, Patrick Tansty, Reuben Wilsey, Lorenzo Dow Godberg, Ole Iverson, Erick C. Johnson, James Lair, Christopher Mikkelson, Israel H. Pace, Isaac Perry, John Peterson, John L. Reynolds, James C. Seely, James A. Smith, Henry Smith, Joseph S. Trigg, Samuel Wanne-maker, Asa Ward, Edward Lugg.

### FIRST REGIMENT MOUNTED RANGERS.

Organized in March, 1863, and originally commanded by Col. Samuel McPhail, of Caledonia, Houston county. Stationed among frontier posts until May, 1863, when they were ordered upon the Indian expedition. Engaged with the Indians, July 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31, 1863. Stationed at frontier posts upon the return of the expedition until mustered out. Mustered out by companies, between October 1, 1863, and December 30, 1863.

Co. H—George S. Ruble, captain; Adolph Waller, sergeant; Charles T. D. Marlett, corporal; Charles R. Ricksecker, teamster; John Van Antwerp, blacksmith; David T. Colvin, wagoner. Privates—John M. Ames, Frank D. Hardy, Matthew Hogan, James F. Nadeau, Michael Sheehan, Abram L. Van Asdal, Jesse Wheeler, Ed. A. Wright, Pat. Bannon, Harvey Hill, James Morrison, N. W. Perry, David Tubbs, Amherst D. Wait, Leroy B. Woodruff, John W. Murtaugh.

Co. K—Samuel Landis.

Co. M—Privates, Martin O. Gunderson, Egbert Hanson, John V. Johnson.

### SECOND MINNESOTA CAVALRY.

This regiment was organized in January, 1864, and ordered out on an Indian expedition in the month of May. They had several engagements with the Indians in July and August of that year. They were stationed at frontier posts until they were mustered out by companies, between November, 1865, and June, 1866.

Co. A—Private, Woodworth Lee. Co. B—William W. Cather-

wood, commissary sergeant. Privates—Clarence H. Shafner, James F. Spafford, Julius F. Shafner, Alma B. Sija.

Co. C—Frederick L. Cutler, second lieutenant; Adelbert E. Pettingill, commissary sergeant; Charles E. Fitzsimmons, sergeant; George P. Conrad, corporal; Aaron A. Webster, corporal; Robert G. Spear, blacksmith; John H. Rich, wagoner. Privates—William H. H. Buckley, Frank Barber, David L. Courtier, Alfred Holland, Jacob Larson, Joseph F. Pärcher, Charles Stocklale, John Tracy, Henry Wiseman, H. M. Davis, Frederick Weiser, Orson Buckley, Ashbel H. Barnhart, William Clark, James E. Ford, William R. Herrington, John Levenick, Edwin W. Parshall, Henry L. Slaven, Henry Wyent.

Co. I—Torger Svendsen.

### FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY.

This regiment was organized in the fall of 1864, and originally commanded by Col. William Colville, of Red Wing; ordered to Chattanooga, Tenn., and stationed at that point until mustered out in September, 1865.

Co. B—Private, John Blythe.

Co. C—George S. Ruble, senior first lieutenant, Jonas C. Baer, sergeant; Hannibal Bickford, sergeant. Privates—John L. Bliss, Henry Lawrence, John Buckley, Louis Marpie, John Bell, Nehemiah W. Campbell, Joseph D. Dudley, Joseph France, William Kellar, Michael Smith, Frederick H. White, Joseph White, Jeremiah Callihan.

Co. D—Oliver Andrews.

### OTHER REGIMENTS.

✓ **First Battalion Infantry.** Co. F—Clark Andrews, second lieutenant; John A. Schoen, Henry Thurston, Geo. W. Dearmin, Ole Olson. Co. C—H. A. Crandall, Wm. Jenkins.

✓ **First Battery Light Artillery**—Private, Homer W. Dorman.

✓ **Second Battery, Light Artillery**—Henry A. Symonds, corporal; Edward D. Rogers, artificer; privates, Carlos Dimick, William M. Preston.

✓ **Independent Battalion Cavalry**—Co. B—Privates, Charles Hutchins, Elias Hoyt.

✓ **Ninth Infantry**—Co. C—Francis Merchant, first lieutenant; private, Silon Williams.

✓ **Brackett's Battalion, Cavalry**—Co. B—Isaac Botsford.

✓ **Eleventh Infantry**—Martin Olson.

### FIFTEENTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY.

In addition to those who enlisted in Minnesota regiments in 1861, there were thirty-six Norwegians who went to Wisconsin to



go into a regiment of their own nationality there. In order to get, if possible, these names, a letter was directed some thirty years ago to Chandler P. Chapman, at that time assistant adjutant general of Wisconsin, who, in reply submitted the names found in the list of soldiers credited from Freeborn county as far as they were recorded. He mentioned that it is not unlikely that others may have gone into other regiments.

The following are names of Freeborn county men who enlisted in the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry: Mons Grinager, captain; Ole Peterson, first lieutenant; Ellend Erickson, second lieutenant; Jens Jacobson, sergeant; Olaus Solberg, second lieutenant; Tosten Erickson, sergeant; N. Pederson, corporal; Ole N. Danenen, corporal. Privates—Halver Aslakson, Peder Bjuth, Christian Gulbrandson, Peder Hulgerson, Lars Jargenson, Christopher Johnson, Andreas Madison, Gullbrand Olson, Helge Olson, Huagen Pederson, Iver Olson, Rollof Tykeson, Elling Ellingson, Ole Evanson, Engrebet Amundson, Ole Everson, Lars Halverson, Ole T. Jenson, Jens Jensen, Iver Jacobson, Nils Nilson, Knud Olson, Jacob Olson, Lars Sebjornson, Peter Peterson, August Peterson, K. O. Bagaasen.

**Battle Scarred Relic.**—In December, 1862, the ladies of Freeborn county purchased in an eastern city a regulation flag of fine material and best workmanship. A delegation carried it to Fort Snelling, and in their behalf Francis Hall, of Albert Lea, with pertinent and patriotic words, presented it to Co. F, of the Fifth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, which was composed largely of Freeborn county men. It was gallantly received in behalf of the company by Captain White. This relic was carried through the war and is still preserved in the Freeborn county court house. The flag bears the following inscription: "Presented to Co. F, Fourth Regiment Minnesota Volunteers by the ladies of Freeborn county, Minnesota. Siege of Corinth, Iuka, Corinth, Forty Hills, Raymond Jackson, Champion Hills, Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Allatoona, Savannah." The names of the volunteer members of Co. F, which appear on a card which accompanies the flag are as follows: Captain, Asa W. White; first lieutenant, Wm. F. Wheeler; second lieutenant, James Drysdale; first sergeant, Adrian K. Norton; sergeants, Osborne J. Wheeler, Hannibal Bickford, Reuben Williams, Frank B. Fobes; corporals, Loren Blackmer, Justice C. Stearns, Timothy J. Sheehan, Enoch Croy, Jeremiah Fredenburg, Richard A. White, Perry H. Jewett, Erastus D. Porter; musicians, Henry House, John Pease; wagoner, John Cottrell; privates, Chas. J. Allen, Benj. B. Baker, Robert W. Beebe, Chas. Bromwick. Harrison Buckley, Joseph W. Burdick, Geo. Callahan; Henry Carroll, John Cooney, Jacob Croy, Almon H. Cottrell, Fredrick L. Cutler, Horace L.



Dow, Francis E. Drake, Lucas Echart, John Eickler, Ole L. Ellingson, Elias Farr, Wm. Fenholt, Jacob C. Frost, Mahlon Frost, Geo. W. Gile, Philip Gunnup, Barhart Habererom, Wm. S. Hand, Wm. Hanson, Benj. H. Hathaway, John D. Hochstraser, Chester Holcomb, Benj. J. House, Chas. P. Hubbard, Joseph A. Knapp, Henry R. Loomis, Wm. H. Lovell, Luther J. Lovell, Milton M. Luce, Alexander Morrell, Joseph Myers, Chas. C. Parirn, Orville F. Peck, Wm. C. Peck, Chas. Pillar, Geo. Querner, Richard S. Reeves, Michael Riley, Ira O. Russel, John Ryan, Stillman Sanders, Nicholas T. Sargent, Chas. Scofield, Geo. Scofield, Martin L. Scofield, James Shields, Thomas Smith, Geo. C. Snyder, Thomas F. Sturtevant, Alfred L. Taylor, Phineas Taylor, Wm. Oscar Ward, Chas. White, Wm. B. Walker, Geo. Winchell, Henry W. Woodworth, August Wishman, John Aylesburg, Job Arnold, John Baddorf, Michael Brazil, Freeman Brown, Levi Chase, Hans Chynous, Francis E. Collins, Timothy Canant, Chas. M. Eggleston, Mathias Eis, Andrew Erickson, Israel B. Felton, Dudley K. Gordon, Wm. H. Hill, Henry Holt, John Hughes, Benj. F. S. Ives, John W. Kelly, John G. Renyon, Benj. Ketzback, Andrew Knudson, John Kruer, Andrew Languet, R. B. Langdon, Gardner Loudon, John N. Morrell, Barney Neis, Wm. Nicholson, Wm. A. Parry, Orra F. Perkins, Jerry J. Perkins, Henry Rathwell, Michael Schneider, Farmer Shaw, Jacob Steinmetz, Willard B. Stratton, Chas. B. Swain, Albert B. Sweet, Hamilton J. Teed, John Thomas, Nathan M. Thomas, John Turner, Peter Volk, Frederick S. Woodward, John Geissler.

**Siege of Ft. Ridgley.**—The story of the gallant defense of Ft. Ridgley by Lieut. Timothy J. Sheehan and his brave band, has many times been told, and is a part of the history of Minnesota rather than that of Freeborn county. But in order that the names of the brave soldiers, mostly from Freeborn county, who assisted in that defense may be preserved, there is here appended the list of the members of Co. C, Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, present at the siege, as furnished by Colonel Sheehan in after years. At the time of the attack on the fort, August 20, 1862, the command under Lieutenant Sheehan consisted of Co. B, 60 men, 51 effective; Co. C, 50 men, all effective; Renville Rangers and citizens, 50 men; orderly sergeant, 1 man; sutler, 1 man. Total effective men first day's fight, August 20, 153 men under arms.

Co. C—T. J. Sheehan, F. A. Blackmer, John P. Hicks, A. M. Chamberlain, Z. C. Butler, John C. Ross, Wm. Young, Dennis Porter, Edward D. Brooks, James M. Brown, Joel Bullock, S. P. Beighley, Z. Chute, S. Cook, Charles E. Chapel, Chas. H. Dills, Daniel Dills, S. W. Dogan, Lyman A. Eggleston, Halvor Ellefson,



Chas. J. Grandy, Mark M. Greer, Andrew Gulbrandson, Jerome P. Greene, A. R. Grout, James Honan, Philo Henry, Chas. Dills, Lyman C. Jones, Andrew J. Luther, Nicholas I. Lowthian, Frank M. McReynolds, Dennis Morean, Orland McFall, James H. Mead, John D. Miller, Peter Nisson, John McCall, Andrew Peterson, Ed. Roth, C. O. Russell, Charles A. Rose, B. F. Ross, Walter S. Russell, J. M. Rice, Isaac Shortledge, Josiah Weekley, Geo. Wiggins, James M. Ybright, D. N. Hunt, L. H. Decker.

Martin V. Kellar has written the following description of war conditions in Freeborn county:

The Rebellion was a very sad and gloomy period for the people of Freeborn county. She was yet but thinly settled and in fact did not know prosperity until after the close of that fearful struggle. Their nearest market was yet at points on the Mississippi river, mainly McGregor, Ia., 140 miles away. All goods received and produce marketed was over roads much of the time well-nigh impassable owing to many sloughs not bridged. Prices of provisions of all kinds during the whole of that period were extremely low. At no time could wheat, our main product, be sold in Albert Lea for more than 75 cents per bushel, and dressed pork was hauled and sold in Red Wing during the fall of 1862 for \$2.25 per hundredweight, while goods of all kinds reached almost prohibitive prices—green tea, \$2.20 per pound, coffee 60 to 80 cents, coarse salt \$7.00 per barrel, kerosene oil, very poor quality, 60 cents, best 90 cents per gallon, while cotton goods reached almost beyond vision, common calico 50 to 60 cents per yard, cotton sheeting of the most frail quality 85 cents per yard, and other things in proportion.

When it came to the sinews of war, Freeborn county made a noble sacrifice as nearly all of her able-bodied men wore the blue. In a radius of five miles of her county seat but five men who could have passed a medical examination remained at home. Co. F, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and Co. C, Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry were almost wholly from this county, while Co. E, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and Co. C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, were mostly from Freeborn county, and quite a company of sturdy Norwegians, filled with love for their adopted country, enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment which was composed almost wholly of this liberty-loving race. The worry and anxiety at home was most keenly felt, and they were intensified by our slow communications, as all mail in the whole state was yet at the mercy of the slow stage coach. St. Paul dailies, our only source of news, were three days old when received, and that but three times per week via Austin.

Albert Lea was the news distributing point for the whole county and when that mail was due, people were sure to be on



hand intently listening for the blast of the big tin stage horn, always given at the old dam. Postmaster Samuel Eaton would hastily open the mail and call out the names on the letters, when "Here," "Here," would be heard throughout the throng. One would take his neighbor's mail if not present, as quickly as his own, and seldom indeed would the postmaster have a letter left to place in the call box.

In August, 1862, the Sioux war began. Thought many of our first settlers were used to the Indian they had never known him as a blood-thirsty demon. Fear was depicted on many faces and their timidity was intensified by outrageous exaggerations and falsehoods, and seeing so many fleeing, had no quieting effect on the timid. News reached here that New Ulm and Mankato had been taken, Blue Earth City and Winnebago City were in ashes, and all whites in those places were slain. The old Blue Earth road was the biggest thoroughfare it had even been. For two days there was almost an unbroken caravan—wagons, loose cattle, sheep, dirty, half-clad women and children lined the road.

It seemed as if there were enough men on that road alone, had they had the courage of an Albert Lea bird-dog, to have held the whole Sioux tribe in check. Armstrong had suddenly been placed beyond the pale of the white man—not a white family to be found this side of the Pacific. Many of those refugees were in a really deplorable condition. The noble people of Albert Lea, ever considerate to the needy and afflicted, furnished clothing and provisions to many. A large portion were leaving never to return, but so far as nearly all were concerned it was only "an Indian scarce," as but very few indeed of those who came through here had been in any danger, as no Indians appeared near their neighborhood. None, so far as known, left our county, but many had "picked up their things to go."

### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

**Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R.,** was instituted in the winter of 1880, and was named in honor of Capt. James A. Robson, of Co. E, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The present officers are: Commander, D. R. P. Hibbs; senior vice commander, Alex. McNeill; junior vice commander, W. J. Horning; quartermaster, Ellend Erickson; adjutant, C. B. Kellar; surgeon, Myron Reynolds; chaplain, A. J. Luther; officer of the day, H. H. Lukins; officer of the guard, H. H. Freeman.

The following veterans have been members of the Post: James Q. Annis, Company B, Seventy-second New York; Andrew Anderson, Company G, Twelfth Indiana; Arne Anderson, Company F, Seventy-fifth Iowa; John Anderson, Co. G, Eighteenth Wisconsin; Gilbert Barden (D), Company E, Tenth Minnesota;



✓ August Bremer, Company B, Third Iowa; ✓ George A. Boye, Company A, Fifteenth Wisconsin; H. ✓ Bickford (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; ✓ Simon Beighley, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; ✓ Isaac Botsford (D), Company B, Brackett's Battalion, Cavalry; ✓ Loren Blackmer, Company F, Fourth Minnesota; ✓ Robert H. Boen, Company E, Tenth Minnesota; Horatio D. Brown ✓ (D), Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Frank A. Blackmer (D), ✓ Company C, Fifth Minnesota; George H. Briggs (D), Company I, Eighteenth Wisconsin; David T. ✓ Colvin, Company H, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; ✓ Benjamin H. Conklin (D), Company I, Thirty-seventh New York; Seward H. Cady ✓ (D), Company C, Forty-first Wisconsin; H. A. Crandall, Company C, First Minnesota; Jeremiah Callihan, Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; John B. Claybourn, Company E, One Hundred Thirty-sixth Illinois; Albert C. Chapman, Company A, Second Wisconsin; Edward Cook (D), Company E, Thirty-third Wisconsin; E. F. Connor, Company E, One Hundred Thirty-fourth Illinois; F. W. Drake, Company L, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Francis D. Drake, Company E, Sixteenth Wisconsin; H. M. Davis (D), Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry; D. Dills (D), Company C, Fifth Minnesota; C. H. Dills, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Charles Dills (D), Company C, Fifth Minnesota; John A. Dahl (D), M. M. Dodge (D), Company D, Fortieth Wisconsin; Joseph D. Dudley (D), Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Elling Ellingson (D), Company F, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Ellend Erickson, Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Ole I. Ellingson (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; Ole Evanson, Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Jacob C. Frost, Company F, Fourth Minnesota; A. R. Foster, Company F, Twenty-first Iowa; F. B. Fobes (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; Wm. Fenholt (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; O. B. Fobes, Company M, Fourth Wisconsin; H. H. Freeman, Company K, Thirty-first Wisconsin; C. H. Farnsworth, Ninety-sixth New York; Victor Gillrup, Company G, First New York; G. Gulbrandson (D), Company G, Twenty-first Iowa; G. W. Geesey (D), Company A, Thirteenth Iowa; John M. Geissler (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; J. G. Godley, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Elbridge F. Gage, Company K, Eighth Illinois; W. A. Higgins, Company A, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin; D. W. Hayes (D), Sixth Wisconsin; Thomas I. Holton, Company A, Nineteenth Wisconsin; H. A. House (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; G. A. Hauge, Company G, Twelfth Iowa; David R. P. Hibbs (D), Company F, One Hundred and Fourth Pennsylvania; William J. Horning, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Patrick Honan, Company F, Seventy-fifth Illinois; Orville D. Hudson (D), Company E, Thirty-fourth Illinois; John Isacson, Company A, Sixteenth Iowa; Gunvold Johnsrud, Company C,



First Iowa; John G. Johnson, Company F, Third Iowa; Iyer Jacobson, Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Erick C. Johnson, Company E, Tenth Minnesota; William Jenkins (D), Company C, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry; Jens Jensen, Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin; David Jameson, Company K, Twenty-seventh Iowa; Curtis B. Kellar, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Stephen Kelley (D), Company I, Forty-sixth Wisconsin; Peter Keenant, Company C, Ninety-fifth Illinois; Joseph A. Knapp (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; John Kirkpatrick, Company C, Eighteenth Wisconsin; William H. Lowe, Company E, Tenth Minnesota; Jacob Larson, Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry; William H. Long (D), Company C, Fourth Minnesota; Milton M. Luce (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; H. H. Lukins, Company K, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin; James Lair (D), Company E, Tenth Minnesota; Samuel Landis (D), Company K, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; R. M. Leighty (D), Company I, Twelfth Wisconsin; Isaac C. Loomis (D), Company I, Fifteenth Illinois; H. R. Loomis (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; Charles Leavens (D), Company D, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin; John N. Liscomb, Company E, Fourth Wisconsin; Andrew J. Luther, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Franklin M. McReynolds, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; J. W. Murtough, Company H, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers; Francis Merchant, Company C, Ninth Minnesota; Alexander McNeill, Company G, Twenty-eighth Wisconsin; Peter Magginis (D), Company F, Ninth Pennsylvania; Gilbert G. Manning, Company I, Thirty-eighth Iowa; Zadock Mallery (D), Company H, Eighteenth Wisconsin; Edward Metraw (D), Company H, Second Vermont; Michael P. Miller (D), Company G, Eighth Pennsylvania; Louis Marpe (D), Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; A. H. McMillen, Company E, Fifty-second Wisconsin; Adrian K. Norton (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; Tosten Narveson (D), Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Ole Olson, Company F, First Minnesota; Martin Olson (D), Company H, Eleventh Minnesota; M. W. O'Connor (D), Company E, One Hundred and Eighty-first Ohio; Lawrence F. Peabody, Company B, Sixteenth Wisconsin; Eli K. Pickett (D), Company E, Tenth Minnesota; D. G. Parker (D), Company F, First Wisconsin Engineers; John Peterson, Company E, Tenth Minnesota; James Peterson, Company E, Eighty-eighth Illinois; William C. Pratt (D), Company E, Thirteenth Wisconsin; William Pickle (D), Company A, Twenty-first Iowa; Thomas Peterson, Company F, Ninth Iowa; August Peterson (D), Company D, Third Minnesota; Sylvester Payne (D), Company D, First Wisconsin; John C. Ross (D), Company C, Fifth Minnesota; Judson Randall (D), Company D, Second Wisconsin; Myron Reynolds, Company G, Sixty-fourth New York; John A.



Schoen (D), Company F, First Battalion, Minnesota Infantry; Ole Olson, Company K, Fifth Wisconsin; T. J. Sheehan, Company F, Fourth Minnesota; J. H. Shipton (D), Company A, Second Minnesota; W. P. Sargent (D), Company I, Eighth New York; Ole O. Styve (D), Company K, Fifth Wisconsin; Cornelius Smith (D), Company C, Twenty-second Wisconsin; Dorr K. Stacy, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; N. T. Sandburg (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; Giles Q. Slocum (D), Company H, Seventy-second Indiana; James Sorenson, Company B, Thirty-second Iowa; Michael Smith (D), Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Torger Svendsen, Company I, Second Minnesota Cavalry; S. S. Stockwell, Company I, One Hundred and Eighteenth New York; O. J. Taylor, Company C, Twenty-second Wisconsin; F. E. Towne, Company C, One Hundred and Eighteenth New York; Leander J. Thomas (D), Company E, Tenth Minnesota; C. H. Tallard, Company B, Sixteenth Wisconsin; Rolof Thykeson, Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin; Henry Thurston (D), Company F, First Battalion, Minnesota Infantry; J. G. Taylor (D), Company B, Thirty-sixth Indiana; Thomas Thorson, Company F, Ninth Iowa; R. C. VanVeechten, Company I, Eighth New York; John Whytock (D), Company B, Second Wisconsin; Wiffing Wadsworth, Company C, Fifth Minnesota; A. W. White (D), Company F, Fourth Minnesota; F. Weiser (D), Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry; A. C. Wedge, Third Minnesota; R. A. White, Company F, Fourth Minnesota; D. Wanamaker (D), Company G, Seventeenth Illinois; E. S. Wilson, Company A, Sixth Iowa; H. E. Walker, Company K, Twenty-seventh Massachusetts; John H. Wing, Company D, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois; M. L. Frost, Company F, Fourth Minnesota; C. E. Yearian (D), Eighty-fifth Illinois; Jasper J. Bond (D), Company K, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin; Lawrence Flanagan (D); Fred White (D), Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery; Ole C. Larsen (D), Company F, Third Wisconsin; S. A. Longnecker, Company C, Sixtieth Ohio; Edwin Connor, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois.

### STATE MILITIA COMPANIES.

From time to time since the war there have been military organizations of various sorts in Albert Lea, but none exist at the present time with the exception of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Albert Lea Light Guards were organized May 4, 1882, as Company E, Second Battalion, Minnesota National Guards. Fifty-two men were mustered in by Major Joseph Bobleter. The commissioned officers at that time were: Captain, George T. Gardner; first lieutenant, T. K. Ramsey; second lieutenant, C. S. Robertson.



**Company I, Second Regiment,** Minnesota National Guards, was mustered into service June 31, 1895, by Col. Joseph Bobleter, of St. Paul, commander of the regiment. Forty-six young men signed the roll. A. E. Ransom was elected captain; C. S. Edwards, first lieutenant; S. O. Simonson, second lieutenant; S. G. Thompson, secretary; H. E. Skinner, treasurer. A committee on bylaws consisted of C. H. Day, A. L. Sawyer and C. S. Edwards.

The following is a list of those signing the rolls: Oscar Anderson, H. A. Barek, E. M. Biglow, Albert Blackmer, Frank Cool, Henry Carlson, C. H. Day, W. S. Dalley, C. S. Edwards, A. C. Erickson, Mert Fuller, Ben Fryslie, Frank Gillrup, Charles Greene, John Geissler, C. H. George, N. H. Hendershott, J. C. Hayden, George Hanson, T. A. Hauge, H. E. Kellar, W. Larkins, Chris Larson, C. M. Lewis, F. H. Mallery, Harvey McMillen, L. Narverud, Lou Peterson, A. E. Ransom, H. C. Richardson, S. O. Simonson, F. L. Sweet, A. L. Sawyer, H. E. Skinner, Lester Spicer, Nick Sime, N. J. Sylvander, S. G. Thompson, R. B. Thompson, Lewis Torgenson, Robert Tweedy, Howard Vandegrift, Will Voigt, W. Weeks and Henry Wannemaker.

Captain Ransom recommended to Colonel Bobleter the appointment of the following noncommissioned officers: N. J. Sylvander, first sergeant and orderly; S. G. Thompson, second sergeant; A. L. Sawyer, third sergeant; C. H. Day, fourth sergeant and quartermaster.

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

April 16, 1898, Capt. C. S. Edwards received orders to recruit Company I, Second Regiment, to 100 men. Recruits soon swelled the company from 76 to more than 125. The company, 113 strong, was enrolled April 29, and left Albert Lea April 30 for St. Paul, went into camp at Camp Ramsey (State Fair grounds) and was mustered in as Company I, Twelfth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, May 5. May 16 the regiment left Camp Ramsey and upon reaching Chickamauga went into camp at Camp Thomas. In the early part of July Lieut. C. H. Day, Sergts. Harry Gillrup, Robert Grout, W. E. Joern and Private Hugh Cameron recruited twenty-five more men in Albert Lea. The company then consisted of the following: Captain, C. S. Edwards, attorney; first lieutenant, C. H. Day, journalist; second lieutenant, S. O. Simonson, printer; first sergeant, F. H. Cool, electrician; quartermaster sergeant, T. H. Rogers, farmer; sergeants, Howard Vandegrift, farmer; Harry Gillrup, student; A. Land, tinsmith; W. F. Ostrander, reporter; corporals, C. E. Greene, laundryman; Floyd Willard, plasterer; J. H. Jensen, clerk; Paul Wulff, painter; Jerry Prescott, farmer; T. A. Hauge, bookkeeper; C. A. House, student; John Pehrson, carpenter; Fred Wing, carpenter; Walter Christen-



sen, student; Erick Stenrud, laundryman; Clinton C. Carberry, laborer; musicians, Robert J. Tweedy, insurance; H. M. Truesdell, clerk; artificer, Olaf Styve, clerk; wagoner, H. B. Daniels, teamster; privates, H. W. Anderson, druggist; F. R. Anderson, student; C. S. Bartlett, farmer; A. L. Ball, shoemaker; Wm. Beckel, engineer; L. S. Burton, clerk; T. A. Bergen, fireman; J. C. Erickson, tailor; G. C. Edwards, printer; Dean Clark, butcher; J. D. Dauterman, clerk; Melvin Finton, musician; W. E. Flatt, printer; Julian Fritz, farmer; E. A. Gallagher, bookkeeper; Louis Graves, cook; E. H. George, farmer; S. Halvorsen, reporter; Guy Hanna, student; C. T. Helgeson, stenographer; Martin Honan, laborer; L. W. Joscelyn, optician; E. C. Jensen, carpenter; Henry Jorgenson, butcher; A. G. Keck, gunsmith; Sidney Kilmer, laborer; P. Landers, laborer; B. M. Latham, stenographer; Clarence Lower, clerk; John A. Moe, tailor; W. G. Moore, farmer; W. A. Miller, teamster; Walter Morton, actor; James O'Neill, engineer; C. O. Nelson, teamster; Lars P. Olson, farmer; J. C. Peterson, foundryman; Roy E. Prosser, laborer; Carl M. Simonson, dentist; John Skalada, carpenter; Norman Sandburg, clerk; Arthur Thayer, student; Peter Truelson, mason; Nels Thompson, farmer; Wm. Venon, engineer; John Ward, laborer; L. L. Welton, farmer; Henry Woodville, mechanic; L. C. Wetzels, farmer; Andrew Wangen, farmer; Peter Knudson, laborer; Wells Levens, farmer; Ellof Pehrson, well driller; Louis Peterson, plasterer; Charles Swenson, plasterer; Albert Jensen, barber; Fred Bycek, clerk; new recruits, Sivert T. Wall, farmer; Louis P. Jensen, laborer; John Skaug, clerk; Julius Jensen, farmer; Hans Anderson, laborer; Adolph S. Kunath, laborer; Peter O. Styve, farmer; Chas. M. Wilkinson, Jr., driver; George Briggs, preacher; F. W. Carberry, laborer; Benj. C. Knapp, farmer; Anton P. Nelson, blacksmith; Albert A. West, laborer; L. O. Greene, operator; Edwin R. Harris, farmer; Benj. E. Baarson, cigarmaker; Harvey M. Jewitt, laborer; Levi Hanson, clerk; Martin Morgan, laborer; Robt. Brown, stonecutter; Edwin P. Flindt, engineer; John A. Lertz, harnessmaker; Nels L. Jensen, mason; Jens C. Jensen, farmer; Lewis M. Louis, machinist.

In July the county commissioners appropriated \$1,000 for the benefit of the company. Many private donations were also made. A society was also formed and a subscription taken for looking after the families of those who had gone to the front. About this time several members of Company I were taken ill, and Victor Gillrup, as a representative of the people of Freeborn county, was sent to Chickamauga to investigate conditions. In the latter part of August the company was moved to Camp Hamilton, at Lexington, Ky., leaving some twenty-five men in the hospital. In September came the welcome news that the regiment was to be

mustered out of service. September 10 a hospital train brought the sick to St. Paul. Mayor Wilkinson and T. V. Knatvold went to St. Paul on behalf of the citizens' committee to care for the sick of Company I. They found the following on the train: Corporal Albert Land, Corporal Geo. Edwards, N. L. Jensen, Wm. Beckel, Norman Sandburg, Peter Truelson, Oluf Styve, J. C. Jensen, J. C. Peterson, John Skaug and B. H. Knapp.

All were taken from the Third Division hospital, Chickamanga, except Edwards, who was in the Sternberg hospital. Privates Norman Sandburg, Peter Truelson and B. C. Knapp were too ill to travel further, and Norman Sandburg was left at the St. Paul city hospital, and Privates Truelson and B. C. Knapp at the Russell sanitarium, Minneapolis. September 9 Norman Sandburg died.

The regiment left Kentucky for Camp Mueller, New Ulm, Minn., September 13. On September 22, after an absence of nearly five months, the members of the company arrived in Albert Lea on a thirty-day furlough and were given a hearty welcome. On September 30 a "peace jubilee" was held and an elaborate program given. October 22 the company again went into camp at New Ulm. November 6 the regiment was mustered out.







GUNVOLD JOHNSRUD



## CHAPTER XX.

### POSTAL HISTORY.

**Beginning of Postal Service—First Postoffices in Freeborn County—St. Nicholas, Lake Albert Lea, Geneva—Old Stage Routes—Rural Routes—Development of the System—Present Offices—Albert Lea, Alden, Armstrong, Clarks Grove, Conger, Emmons, Freeborn, Geneva, Glenville, Gordonsville, Hartland, Hayward, London, Manchester, Myrtle, Oakland, Twin Lakes—Former Offices—By Emil Nelson.**

The postal service has existed within the memory of every person living, and is therefore a matter of such every-day concern that probably few persons realize that it is a feature of government as old as the written history of man. The influence and accomplishments of the postal service have practically extended the progress of commercialism throughout the world. So far as history records, a system of communication was evidently conceived by Cyrus shortly after his conquest of the Persian empire in the year 550 B. C. That systematic ruler sought to keep in touch with the affairs of his vast domain, and to that end required his governors to write to him frequently about their several districts. In order to make these communications safe and expeditious he built post roads throughout the empire and established posthouses at distances along these roads. The service, however, both in ancient and medieval periods was established for the government alone and not for the general public.

The first postoffice which was established for the general public was in 1516, between Berlin and Vienna. In 1523 England established a postal system, but it was only used for communications between the royal family.

The postal system in America dates from 1639, when the General Court of Massachusetts, by an ordinance, legalized such a system and directed that all letters brought from across the sea or to be sent to parts of the colonies, should be left at the house of Richard Fairbanks, in Boston, and by him sent to the proper destination. He was allowed a penny compensation for the transmission of each letter and was accountable to the authorities for any dereliction of duty. The postal system, however, in the early colonial days, was somewhat of a go-as-you-please system. In 1785 the colonies decided to manage the postal business on their



own responsibility, and appointed Benjamin Franklin postmaster, at \$1,000 a year. In 1776 the total number of postoffices in operation was only twenty-eight, fourteen of which were in Massachusetts. Real developments of the postal service in the United States began in 1789, and the marvelous progress which has been made since that time is a matter with which the public is more or less familiar. In that year there were seventy-five offices, yielding a revenue of less than \$40,000. Today we have over 60,000 postoffices, yielding a revenue of over \$200,000,000. The service has grown and expanded to such a degree that twenty years ago would have been considered extravagant, and yet the service is practically in its infancy. But it already forms an intricate network over all our land and extends to the far-off island possessions, and yet its achievements are not nearly at an end. It is in view of these facts that a short historical sketch of the postal service and its development in this county may be of interest in this work.

The first postoffice in Freeborn county was established in 1855 at old St. Nicholas village, with Jacob Lybrand as postmaster. It was discontinued in 1858. Mail was brought from Mitchell, Iowa, William Rice, the first mail carrier, being frozen to death while pursuing his duties. That same year a postoffice was established at Albert Lea, under the name of Lake Albert Lea, with Lorenzo Merry as postmaster. The mail was brought from St. Nicholas. These were the only postoffices in the county in 1855.

In 1856 an office was established at Geneva with E. C. Stacy as postmaster. The mail was carried from Austin by D. K. Stacy, and later from Onatonna by the same carrier. The Shell Rock postoffice was established, with E. P. Skinner as postmaster. It received mail in the Mitchell-St. Nicholas-Albert Lea bag.

The year 1857 marked a distinct advance in the mail facilities of the county. Seven postoffices were established, making nine in the county. Regular stages started carrying the mail. Freeborn City postoffice was established in section 34, Freeborn township, August 15, 1857, with L. T. Carlson as postmaster. It was discontinued in January, 1859. Freeborn Springs (Itasca) postoffice was established August 15, 1857, with C. C. Colby as postmaster. Trenton postoffice was established September 26, in Freeborn township, with George Watson as postmaster. Fairfield postoffice in Riceland, Sumner postoffice in Moscow, and Bancroft, in Bancroft township, were also established in 1857. Freeborn postoffice was established in Freeborn village with L. T. Scott as postmaster.

In 1858 Gordonsville postoffice was established, with Peter Beighley as postmaster; Buckeye (in Manchester township), with James E. Smith as postmaster, and Moscow, with John G. Dunning as postmaster.



In 1859 the offices at Hartland, Oakland and Nunda (later removed and changed to Twin Lakes) were established.

In the summer of 1857 Hancock & Lowater, of Red Wing, started running a stage from Red Wing, through Austin, via Albert Lea. August 8 they changed the route to take in Geneva. October 17, 1857, the following mail routes were published as then existing in Freeborn county:

“Albert Lea and Mankota—Stage leaves Albert Lea for Mankato every Wednesday at 10 o'clock a. m. Arrives at Albert Lea from Mankato every Saturday noon. Albert Lea and Mitchell—Stage leaves Albert Lea for Mitchell every Saturday at 1 o'clock p. m. Arrives at Albert Lea from Mitchell every Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Albert Lea and Winona—Stages leave Albert Lea for Winona (via Chatfield) every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 o'clock a. m. Albert Lea and Red Wing—Stage leaves Albert Lea for Red Wing (via Geneva) every Thursday morning at 9 o'clock. Arrives at Albert Lea from Red Wing every Wednesday noon. All of the above are United States mail coaches except those from Winona.”

April 18, 1858, Walker, the famous pioneer stage man, started running a stage line from Hastings to Albert Lea via Chatfield and Austin. From then until the coming of the railroads in 1869 the number of stage routes increased. Then the stage routes began to be gradually discontinued until there is now but one, supplying Geneva, which is not on a railroad.

Rural free delivery was inaugurated in this county November 1, 1900, when a route was established out of Albert Lea, with K. K. Nystuen as carrier. There are now eighteen rural routes in the county: as follows: Out of Albert Lea, 6; out of Alden, 3; out of Emmons, 2; out of Glenville, 2; out of Hayward, 1; out of Twin Lakes, 1; out of Hartland, 2; out of Oakland, 1. Rural routes also extend into this county from Austin, Wells, Kiester, Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Lansing, Northwood, New Richland and Walters.

### PRESENT OFFICES.

**Albert Lea.** The Albert Lea postoffice was established in 1855, with Lorenzo Merry as postmaster, the official name of the office at that time being Lake Albert Lea. Merry distributed the mail from his home at the southeast corner of Washington and Water streets. When Julius Clark opened his store on the north side of Clark street, east of Broadway, he was appointed deputy and kept the mail on a shelf in his store. He continued as deputy for a while after A. P. Swineford had succeeded Mr. Merry as postmaster. Augustus Armstrong was deputy for a while, and kept the office at his place of business on the west side of Broad-



way, south of Clark street. Later, with Swineford still holding the office of postmaster, Colonel Samuel Eaton was appointed deputy and removed the office to his store, on the west side of Newton street, between Clark and William. Colonel Eaton had a case made, with twenty-four call boxes and four lock boxes. Colonel Eaton himself was appointed postmaster in 1861. He was followed by Dorr K. Stacy, who kept the office in a building on the northeast corner of Newton and Clark streets. In 1868 Albert Lea was made a money-order office. In 1869 Colonel Eaton again became postmaster and kept the office in his store on Newton street. After a time he moved it to a building erected by Charles Ransom on the present site of the Skinner, Chamberlain & Co. store. B. J. House was the next postmaster and kept the office on the southwest corner of Main and Broadway, where the Lembke store is now located. In the spring of 1876 Gunvold Johnsrud took the office and moved it north to a cement building on the west side of Broadway, between William and Main streets. H. A. Hanson was appointed in November, 1881, and kept the office on the northeast corner of Broadway and Clark street.

It had grown at this time to an important office, and had 730 call boxes and 194 lock boxes. Hans O. Haukness succeeded Mr. Hanson and moved the office to the southeast corner of Clark street and Broadway, in the old Hall block, now occupied by W. A. Irvin. From 1887 to 1889 Dorr K. Stacy again served and moved the office back to the northeast corner of Broadway and Clark. In 1889 Mr. Haukness again became postmaster and moved the office to its old site on the southeast corner of Clark and Broadway.

Thomas M. Blacklin was the next postmaster, and at his death his deputy, S. P. Sorenson, succeeded to the office, which he still kept in the Hall building, southeast corner of Clark and Broadway. Victor Gillrup, who was appointed by President William McKinley, also maintained the office in the same place, as did Emil Nelson, who in January, 1904, succeeded him. Shortly after the appointment of Mr. Nelson, however, the office was removed to the southwest corner of Broadway and College street, in the Morin block, now occupied by the Times-Enterprise and the Evening Tribune. December 15, 1905, the office was moved to the beautiful government building which had been erected on the northeast corner of William and Newton streets.

The new building has a 67-foot front, is 45 feet deep and faces on Newton street. It is of light gray brick with stone foundation above grade and brick below. The main entrance on the west is approached by a broad flight of steps. There are wide cement walks along Newton and William streets, with boulevarding and curbs. There is an entrance to the lot from both streets



with a macadamized driveway along the north and east sides of the building. There is a door and partially enclosed porch on the east side for dispatching and receiving mail. An iron railing has also been provided for hitching teams near the east door.

The cost of the complete building and grounds was about \$36,000, of which \$30,000 was appropriated by congress under a bill introduced by Congressman James A. Tawney, and \$6,000 contributed by citizens to make up the necessary \$12,000 for a site for which congress had appropriated but \$6,000.

Emil Nelson, the present postmaster, was first appointed by Theodore Roosevelt, January 18, 1904, and took office February 1, 1904. He was reappointed by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Mr. Nelson has proven an able and capable officer, and the efficiency of the service he has maintained demonstrates his fitness for his responsible and often trying position. Mr. Nelson may well be proud of the fact that he was the first postmaster in the handsome government building which the office now occupies.

E. R. Hopperstad, the assistant postmaster, has been connected with the local postoffice, with the exception of one year, since 1893. He received his present appointment February 1, 1904, and is now on the civil service rolls. His long service and knowledge of postal conditions has been a factor in the success of the local office. J. E. Murtaugh and M. B. Fossum are the mailing clerks; M. L. Murtaugh is registry and money-order clerk; the other clerks are J. P. Kilbride and D. G. Drommerhausen, and the substitute clerk is G. Leone Wohlhuter.

City delivery was established in Albert Lea April 1, 1899, the carriers being L. P. H. Highby, H. C. McMillen and Thomas I. Bergen, Simon Clement being the substitute. Messrs. Highby, McMillen and Bergen are still serving, and Henry L. Wolfe has been added to the force. Thomas Ahern is the present substitute.

Rural free delivery route No. 1 was established November 1, 1900, with K. K. Nystuen as carrier. August 1, 1902, routes 2, 3 and 4 were established, with A. H. McMillen, John G. Forrest and Lester Horning, respectively, as carriers. Route 5 was established August 1, 1904, with S. S. Mallery as carrier. Route 6 was established January 1, 1905, with L. C. White as carrier. The present carriers are: 1, K. K. Nystuen; 2, J. M. Nelson; 3, P. O. Olson; 4, J. E. Champion; 5, H. E. Ruble; 6, James Tuberty.

In 1910 the receipts of the Albert Lea office were \$30,960.07, the office standing third among the second-class offices of the state in receipts, being but \$3,014.00 behind Rochester, which led the list, and but \$168.00 behind Red Wing, which was second on the list. The receipts of the Albert Lea office since 1900 have been as follows: 1900, \$13,856.91; 1901, \$15,201.70; 1902, \$17,069.43; 1903, \$17,940.39; 1904, \$21,433.66; 1905, \$21,171.04; 1906, \$23,802.42;



1907, \$25,289.26; 1908, \$26,551.48; 1909, \$30,023.56; 1910, \$30,960.07.

The postal savings department was established in this post-office August 26, 1911.

**Alden.** In 1867 this postoffice was established on the farm of E. P. Clark, who acted as postmaster. Later the office was moved into the village of Alden, and in 1870 A. G. Hall was appointed to take charge; he was succeeded by L. S. Crandall, who held the position until 1877; L. T. Walker was next in charge, and was followed by Mrs. A. R. Walker, who has held the position since. This office was originally fourth class, but has been changed to third class, and there are three rural mail carriers—E. Q. Stanley, H. B. Cottrell and E. K. Howe. Mrs. Walker, who received her appointment in 1893, is ably assisted by her son, Frank L. Walker.

**Armstrong.** The Armstrong postoffice was established in 1882, and located in the east central part of section 4. G. H. Kenerson was appointed as the first postmaster, and B. A. Cady, Henry Springer, Henry Henrichson and Theodore E. Flaskerud have served in that capacity since, Mr. Flaskerud being the present postmaster.

**Clarks Grove.** The Clarks Grove postoffice is located in the southwest corner of section 35. C. Peterson was for many years in charge of this office, and was succeeded by Adolph Johnson, who is employed by the government at the present time as postmaster. The office does a good annual business, and Mr. Johnson is an efficient postmaster. This office was established by Mead Clark. It was kept at the farm of C. Nielson for many years.

**Conger.** This postoffice, which is located in the township of Alden, was established in the early nineties, and Peter Flesah was appointed postmaster. He was succeeded by Martin Sprenger, who is serving in this capacity at the present time.

**Emmons.** The Emmons postoffice had its beginning in the old State Line postoffice, which was established in the home of the first postmaster, H. G. Emmons, in 1864. Mr. Emmons' farm was located in section 32, Nunda township, and mail arrived once a week from Albert Lea. The present postoffice was established in March, 1889, and George H. Emmons was appointed to the position of postmaster. He resigned in April, 1895, and C. A. Olien was appointed to succeed him. Twelve years after this Mr. Emmons again became postmaster. During the term of Mr. Olien's service as postmaster the office was changed from its former location in George H. Emmons' store to the Knutson & Olson hardware store, but when Mr. Emmons again took charge the office was moved to its former location. In March, 1903, the first rural mail route was established, and another came into existence in 1909. Mr. Emmons is the present postmaster, and the rural mail carriers



are Nils H. Edwin and George Rasmussen. This office became a registry office soon after it was established. The first money order was issued to William Torry on January 10, 1889, and the first money order paid was to Fred C. Dennis, February 13, 1899.

**Freeborn.** Freeborn postoffice is located in lot 7, block 45, village of Freeborn, the present postmaster being G. R. Borland. The office was established in a log house on the banks of Freeborn lake in 1857, with L. T. Scott as first postmaster. The following year J. Goward was appointed to take charge of the mails, which were received once each week via the Mankato and Otronto (Iowa) route. Henry Lacy was the mail carrier. Following him came A. A. Munn, T. A. Southwick, O. S. Gilmore, T. A. Southwick, S. P. Sorenson, G. W. Barck, O. S. Gilmore, George P. Latin and G. R. Borland. The present postmaster has served about five years. The office became a money order office in 1873. A. A. Munn was postmaster at that time. The first money order was paid July 28, 1873, to Jason Goward. O. S. Gilmore, who has been postmaster several times, has taken much interest in the growth of this office and has furnished the facts for this sketch.

**Geneva.** In 1856, through the efforts of E. C. Stacy, a postoffice was established in Geneva, and Mr. Stacy was appointed postmaster. The mail was received once a week from Austin, and Dorr K. Stacy carried it. The first money order was issued October 9, 1895, to Fillmore Brothers, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the first money order was paid December 2, 1895, to Lettie Gahagan. Mona postoffice was discontinued into this February 1, 1902. Svend Svendson is at the present time serving in the capacity of postmaster.

**Glenville.** This office was formerly the Shell Rock postoffice, which was established in 1856. It was the intention of A. H. Bartlett, who laid out the village, to establish a postoffice there at the earliest possible date, but during a business trip east his plans were frustrated by E. P. Skinner, who had the postoffice located in Hayward township, a short distance north of Shell Rock. On the return of Mr. Bartlett, Skinner was offered one-fourth interest in Shell Rock, providing that the office should be moved to that point and the proposed townsite abolished. The offer was accepted and the office moved to Shell Rock, and Mr. Skinner became postmaster, with A. H. Bartlett as deputy. For a time the office was located in Mr. Bartlett's house, and later it was moved into the store owned by Skinner & Cottrell. The mail was carried by William Rice from Mitchell through to Albert Lea, and in 1857 a regular route was established from St. Ansgar to Mankato, with A. B. Davis as carrier. R. A. Cornish succeeded Mr. Skinner as postmaster, and since William Andrews, Edward Town, Victor Gilrup, A. H. Bartlett and Gardener



Louden have been appointed to the position, Mr. Louden being the present head official.

**Gordonsville.** In 1858 a postoffice was established in the home of Peter Beighley, the first postmaster. The mail arrived by the way of Northwood and Albert Lea and was carried by John P. Beighley. In 1865 the location of the office was changed to section 28, in the home of T. J. Gordon, who was appointed postmaster. Some time later W. H. H. Gordon became postmaster, and he was succeeded by J. W. Abbott. After him came Heman Frost, Niem Nelson, Cook Robinson, and then Niem Nelson again. Mr. Nelson is a most successful officer and has served a number of years.

**Hartland.** As early as 1859 there was a Hartland postoffice in the western part of section 13, Hartland township. Before the village of Hartland was thought of the office was held in various parts of the township. In 1877 J. C. Hoff became the postmaster and was succeeded by Ole A. Seim, who has been followed in succession by Oluf Hovland, Dr. M. Torkelson, Margaret Torkelson, R. M. Gardner, Dr. M. L. Head and H. M. Wulff, who is serving at the present time. In 1905 two rural routes were established, and the present carriers are C. J. Marvin and Martin Sybelrud.

**Hayward.** In 1863 this postoffice was established at the home of M. W. Campbell, in section 4, with Mr. Campbell as postmaster. It was moved into the village of Hayward in 1870, and Oliver Nelson was appointed postmaster. Since that time the following have occupied the office: J. J. Hove, J. C. Staige and R. E. Dewey, who is the present postmaster. He is assisted by two clerks—E. C. Savre and Gilbert Skaug.

The first money order was issued January 4, 1899, to the Northwestern Telephone Exchange, and the first money order paid was to G. T. Rundin, January 24, 1899. The Sigsbee postoffice was discontinued into this December 31, 1904, and the Lerdal office in February, 1908. A rural route was established January 1, 1905, and H. W. Anderson is the present carrier.

**London.** This office was established in September, 1876, with Henry Lang as postmaster, and a short time later Mrs. Meadowcroft was appointed as deputy. The office was located in section 14, and mail arrived once a week from Austin, John Connor being the carrier. In April, 1880, James Lacy was appointed postmaster, with Marion Connor deputy, and in 1882 John Manning succeeded him and the office was moved to his residence in section 15. The postoffice is now located in the village of London, and Nordahl H. Nelson is the postmaster.

**Manchester.** In 1878, upon a petition of H. R. Fossum and E. H. Stensrud, which was signed by a majority of the citizens



of the village, this postoffice was established. H. R. Fossum was the first postmaster, and he held the office until 1880, when E. H. Stensrud was appointed to succeed him. He was followed by Knute O. Slette. E. O. Fossum has served many years and has given excellent satisfaction in the position.

**Myrtle.** The Myrtle postoffice was long located near the central part of section 8, in London township. Among the postmasters who served in this office were A. A. Schumacher, O. W. A. Radloff, Daniel S. Hoyt and Hans S. Sorensen. In 1900 the office was moved to the village in section 7. C. W. Hanson is at present in charge.

**Oakland.** This is one of the small offices in the county and it is located in Oakland village, in the northeast part of the township bearing the same name. George S. Walker has given efficient service as postmaster in the past, as has also Louis E. Hardy and Mrs. Mabel Harris, the latter of whom is at the present time in charge of the office as postmistress. As early as 1859 there was an Oakland postoffice in the northwestern corner of section 16, Oakland township.

**Twin Lakes.** This office, which is located in Nunda, was the first postoffice established in the township, being opened as Nunda postoffice in the spring of 1859, with Patrick Fitzsimmons as postmaster. The office was held in the home of Mr. Fitzsimmons, in section 16, and mail arrived once a week. In June, 1866, Frederick McCall was appointed postmaster and the office was moved to his residence, in section 14, mail at this time being carried by Allen B. Davis. In 1877 the office was again moved and this time to Twin Lakes, in section 12. On July 1, 1881, the name was changed from Nunda to Twin Lakes, and Mr. McCall is at present postmaster, having served for many years in this office to the entire satisfaction of the people of the township. He is said to be the oldest postmaster in the state.

### FORMER POSTOFFICES.

Among the discontinued postoffices in Freeborn county may be mentioned Bath, Buckeye, Clover, Knatvold, Lerdal, Mansfield, Moscow, Newry, Sigsbee and Trenton.

**Bath.** This office was established in 1876 at the residence of L. P. Carlson, on section 36. Mr. Carlson was appointed as the first postmaster and held the office for about two years. A. H. Peterson has since been appointed to the position, and later James St. John. The office was discontinued about 1907.

**Buckeye** postoffice was established in 1858; and the office was held in the home of the first postmaster, James E. Smith, on section 30, Manchester township. In 1860 a mail route from Mankato to Otronto was established, and S. B. Smith appointed to



take charge of the office. Some years later A. G. Hall became postmaster and the office was moved to his residence, where it was discontinued about 1870.

**Clover.** The postoffice was established in 1890, with William P. Pickle as postmaster. Originally the office was called Adair, but on account of its resemblance to the word Adrain it was changed to Clover. After Mr. Pickle came William Wohlhuter, Frank Yost, Peter Flesch and George Enser, the latter of whom was serving when the office was discontinued. Mail is now received by rural route from Albert Lea.

**Knatvold** postoffice was established in Freeman in the early nineties, with Thomas E. Flaskerud as postmaster, and he was succeeded by Erick K. Flaskerud. The office has been discontinued into Albert Lea.

**Lerdal** postoffice was located in the west part of section 17, Riceland township, and among the postmasters who have served in that office were H. Evenson, Martin O. Broten and Oluf Jorgenson. The office was discontinued about 1909 and mail is now supplied from Hayward.

**Mansfield.** In 1875 this office was established, and James M. Emerson appointed to serve as postmaster. Among those who have been appointed to the position since that time are C. J. Flesch, Henry C. Becker, Henry J. Smith and Frank Becker. The postoffice was discontinued about 1909, being now supplied from Alden.

**Moscow.** A postoffice in the village of Moscow was established in 1858, and John G. Dunning was appointed as the first postmaster, the office being located in the home of David Farr, in section 22. In 1860 Mr. Farr became postmaster, and he held the office for two years, after which Evan Morgan was appointed. Since that time K. Ryan has served as postmaster, also Emma Darley. The office has been discontinued and the mail is supplied from Austin.

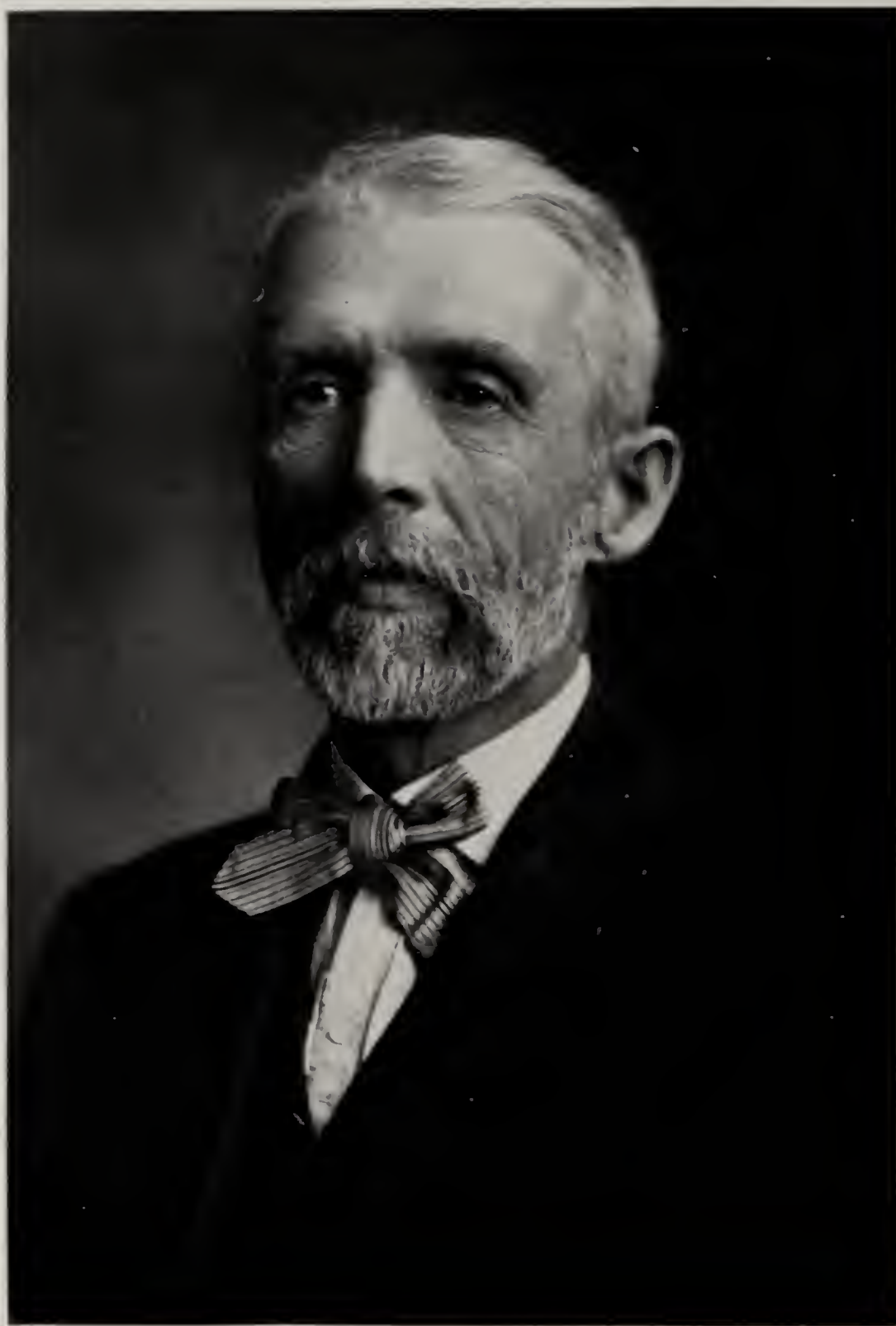
**Newry.** In 1874 the postoffice at this place was established, with John Herron as postmaster, and the office was located in his home in the northwest part of section 9. The office has been discontinued and mail is supplied from Blooming Prairie.

**Sigsbee** postoffice was established in the eighties, with Henry Bell as postmaster, who was succeeded by Andrew P. Tufte. The office has been discontinued in to Hayward.

**Trenton.** The Trenton postoffice was established in September, 1857, with George Watson as first postmaster. The office was located in the northwest part of section 10, Freeborn township, but in 1858 when John W. Ayers was appointed postmaster was removed to section 3. T. S. Levold was the last postmaster, the office having been discontinued some time ago.







CLARENCE WEDGE



## CHAPTER XXI

### FREEBORN COUNTY HORTICULTURE

**Native Fruits, Berries and Trees—Some of the Pioneer Horticulturists—Their Long Life and Exemplary Habits—Horticultural Societies—By Clarence Wedge.**

In beginning some notes on the work that has been accomplished in cultivating trees and fruits in Freeborn county, it may be of interest to touch upon some of the features of its natural flora as the settlers found it when the country came under the influence of civilization.

Among the native fruits that proved of value when there was no possibility of securing the cultivated fruits from the other settled regions we would mention the wild apple (*Pyrus Coronaria*), the wild grape (*Vitus Riparia*), the wild plum (*Prunus Americana*), the wild strawberry and gooseberry. The native apple was fortunately a good keeper that could be stored and used for a considerable time into the winter; the largest and best flavored made passable sauce and perhaps as fine jelly as can be produced from any fruit whatever. The trees were very commonly found among the groves of the county. The wild grape was as abundant then as it is to-day, and while very small both in bunch and berry, was found in sufficient quantity to be used largely in marmalades and jellies. The wild plum was undoubtedly the best of the native fruits, some select kinds having a flavor surpassed by few of the stone fruits of any climate. It was very plentiful among the thickets at the edge of the timber and along the water courses generally. It was the first of the native fruits to enter the cultivated lists, and through selection and hybridization has become the basis of the cultivated varieties of the north Mississippi Valley. The wild strawberry was abundant in favorable seasons, and while rather soft and difficult to pick, was of such excellent flavor as to be perhaps the highest prized of all the native small fruits. The wild gooseberry, both the smooth and prickly form, was found in considerable abundance on the big island in Lake Albert Lea and in other good timber soil and, in quality ranks well up with the cultivated varieties.

It may not be generally known that in Freeborn county we find the northwestern limit of the true shellbark hickory on the North American continent. It occurs on the peculiar light-colored



soils found about two miles north of Twin Lakes in Pickerel Lake township, and in what was formerly the island of Rice Lake and its outlet, the Turtle creek, in Riceland and Moscow townships. The black walnut and butternut and bitternut hickory were found along the bluffs of the lakes and in the timber along the water courses quite commonly over the county, in some places, notably about Freeborn Lake, becoming of fine size and making extremely valuable timber.

The only evergreen native to the county is the red cedar, found only, as we believe, along the shores of Freeborn lake in Freeborn and Carlston townships, and near the south border of the county on what is known as State Line lake.

There is little doubt that the honor of establishing the first good-sized orchard in the county belongs to the Rev. Isaac W. McReynolds, then living about a mile directly west of the city, who planted apple seed in 1858; and when grown to proper size set out trees sufficient to cover about an acre. These trees in due time came on and bore considerable fruit, so that by about the year 1870 he was harvesting crops of fifty to seventy-five bushels. The product of this orchard was frequently mentioned in the county papers and the results achieved were such as to greatly encourage the planting of fruit trees at an early date in our county. However, like most of the early seedling orchards that were grown from promiscuous seed gathered from eastern orchards, they carried with them in their ancestry no special adaptation to the climate of the West, and one by one they succumbed to severe winters and drouthy summers, till at the end of twenty years very little was left to show for the effort that had been put forth. At this date but one tree is left, probably the oldest apple tree in the county. Mr. McReynolds lived to the age of ninety-three years.

In the year 1865 R. C. Cady, living on section 4 in Pickerel Lake, planted a block of about three acres adjoining the northern boundary of the township of grafted trees procured from a nursery in Berlin, Wisconsin, and also from his own grafting. A good share lived and have borne quite a quantity of fruit, perhaps a third enduring even to the present day. Among this lot of trees were some of the Duchess as well as crabs and some winter sorts. Mr. Cady thus probably had the honor of establishing the first good-sized and successful orchard of grafted trees in the county. Mr. Cady was a thoroughgoing horticulturist and was very active in distributing the white willow, which at that time was looked upon as a valuable tree for making hedges along the roadside and for supplying fuel for the prairies. The white willow has proved perhaps the most valuable of all the timber trees for general farm uses up to the present day, and to Mr. Cady belongs a very large



share of honor for appreciating its value and distributing it so widely as he did. Mr. Cady removed from Freeborn county about 1878 and settled in Kansas, in which event Freeborn county lost one of its most genial and unselfish citizens. Mr. Cady lived to the age of eighty-four years.

Some time about 1870 C. L. Smith, who later became a prominent man in the political and horticultural life of the West, endeavored to establish as one of his first ventures a small nursery on the grounds now occupied by the Luther Academy. On account of continued sickness in the family and the slender means at his disposal, Mr. Smith was scarcely able to consummate his desires in this direction, and the nursery was abandoned within a year or two, before it was fairly established and before he had accomplished much of value for the community, and it is only for the fact that he afterwards became so prominent in the horticultural fraternity of Minnesota and the Northwest that his name is mentioned in connection with this history. Mr. Smith is now a citizen of the state of Washington.

In the first plantings of this section of the state the trees most commonly used were the cottonwood and white willow, and it was largely through the efforts of C. R. Ransom, who later became a prominent merchant in Albert Lea, that the soft maple was given a large distribution and became one of the popular trees for grove and ornamental planting. At the time that Mr. Ransom established his home on the block at the intersection of Newton and Second streets, in 1866, he planted the larger share of his property to a nursery of soft maple and elm seedlings, which he distributed very largely when of suitable size as street trees in the city of Albert Lea. Those located on the central town site have large proved a disappointment on account of its sandy subsoil being ill adapted to the health of this tree, but in the southern and western portions of the city on clay soils they have grown up and made some of the finest specimens to be found in the city. Mr. Ransom was also an enthusiast in grape culture, and to him alone belongs the honor of introducing the proper training and cultivation of the standard grapes of the old list, such as the Concord, Delaware, Agawam, and the like, into this county. Mr. Ransom was a very thorough cultivator and a man of tireless energy and enthusiasm in such work, and his vineyard of about one hundred vines was a model in appearance and produced the heaviest crops and perhaps the finest and largest clusters that have ever been grown in our county. Such a combination of enthusiasm and thoroughness is as rare as it is useful, and as is usual in such case, his neighbors and all observers became possessed with the idea of imitating his example, so that on the whole he was one of the characters to whom much is due for the present



prosperous status of the horticultural interests in our midst. Mr. Ransom lived to an unusually vigorous and healthy old age, dying in the year 1911, in his ninety-first year.

The pioneer in market gardening and perhaps the most prominent all around figure in the early horticulture of our county was George H. Prescott, who settled here as a farmer in the town of Bancroft in 1856, and after moving to Stearns county and returning several years later, planted out a considerable orchard of crab trees, the general idea being prevalent at that time that crabs were the only apple that could be successfully grown so far north as Minnesota. In about the year 1880 he became interested with W. P. Sergeant as manager in a large sorghum mill which was established in Albert Lea, under the patronage of Mr. Sergeant. We believe that it was at this time that Mr. Prescott moved his family to the residence in New Denmark which they occupied up to within three years of the present time. The sorghum enterprise was a complete failure and was abandoned after two years' efforts in which the extremely wet and unfavorable seasons and the difficulty of hauling cane to the city over the muddy roads had proved almost insuperable obstacles. Mr. Prescott then turned his attention to market gardening, growing not only ordinary vegetables but large beds of strawberries and raspberries for the local markets, and became the leading authority on small fruits of the early days when the Wilson and Crescent strawberries and the old Philadelphia raspberry were the principal varieties cultivated. Mr. Prescott was a very genial and public-spirited gentleman and an enthusiastic promoter and disseminator of horticultural information. He lived to the age of eighty-one years.

There is no doubt that the chief factor in encouraging the planting of what have proved to be the two most dependable varieties, the Duchess and the Wealthy apple, was the orchard established by S. S. Batchelder in 1868 on the farm in section 31 in the town of Bancroft, now occupied by the Wedge Nursery. This little orchard, occupying only a little over half an acre, was fortunately planted almost wholly to the Duchess, which soon came into bearing; and the fruit, being brought to the city and sold in considerable quantity, gave the lie to the common assertion of that time that it was impossible to grow apples in Minnesota. A large share of the trees in this orchard are still living in fine health and bearing excellent crops for the present owner. Mr. Batchelder was no doubt the first to realize the great value of the Wealthy, and so highly did he esteem it and so eager was he to have it introduced in our section that he purchased root grafts of it and grew nursery trees which he distributed to a limited extent in his own neighborhood. Mr. Batchelder was a



man of fine education, high moral character and very considerable ability, holding a number of important offices in the county, among which was that of superintendent of schools. But of all the products of his active and useful life we believe that there are few that have given more joy and comfort to our people than the impetus which he gave to the planting of the Wealthy apple, which is now more generally prized than any other variety or perhaps all other varieties combined. Mr. Batchelder, although never in robust health, lived to the age of fifty-three.

The largest and most enterprising small fruit grower up to the present time is H. F. Hanson, who has grown strawberries by the acre for many years past and become recognized as an unusually shrewd and painstaking observer of plant life in general. Mr. Hanson began his plantations in about the year 1885, and after making an unusual success in strawberry and raspberry growing, he became attracted to the larger fruits, and at this time has an orchard only second in importance to that of the Wedge Nursery. Mr. Hanson has not only succeeded remarkably well with most of the cultivated fruits grown in this latitude, but has also engaged in seedling experiments, having produced at least one variety of strawberries, and has given examples of some of the most successful topworking experiments in growing winter apples. To him also belongs the honor of transforming the worthless cut-over island of Pickerel lake into a fine five-acre orchard.

The greenhouse enterprise that, undertaken on a small scale in about the year 1885 by Peter Clausen, has grown into the present fine establishment of P. Clausen & Son, known as the Lake Shore Greenhouses, located on the north shore of Fountain lake, and now under 50,000 feet of glass. Mr. Clausen has not only the honor of establishing the first greenhouse, but has also been one of the most earnest workers in the horticultural society and prominent exhibitors at the county fairs. Mr. Clausen's flowers and good cheer have always been a dependable factor in any undertaking for the advancement of horticulture.

The great age attained by our early horticulturists will not pass unnoticed by the reader. Careful inquiry has disclosed the fact that they were men of clean habits, and though living before the liquor habit had fallen into its present ill repute, were without exception total abstainers. Their calling leads up close to nature with her miracles not less wonderful than those recorded in the book of God. And so the atheist has been as rare as the drunkard among our horticulturists. Living out in the open with unclouded brains and clear faith, these men co-operated with nature to bring forth the best fruits of earth. Finding such constant rewards and ever-unfolding revelations, their minds were



hopefully occupied and their interest in life unfailing to the end. No more wholesome life could be imagined, the ideal life that was in the mind of the Creator when he "planted a garden eastward in Eden." Among the recollections brought up during the gathering of material for this sketch among the old residents was one of seeing Mr. Cady talk about his work with his arm around one of his trees, patting it lovingly as he talked, as if it were a child. Affection like this for one's work makes the cup of life sweet to the very last drop.

No history of the horticulture of the county would be complete without mention of the two horticultural societies which have met within its borders and largely contributed to the development of the taste for fruits and flowers and the joys of outdoor life.

**The Southern Minnesota Horticultural Society.**—The preliminary meeting for the purpose of organizing a southern Minnesota society was held in Albert Lea in October, 1893, when a program committee was appointed and F. W. Kimball, of Austin, was made president and Clarence Wedge, of Albert Lea, secretary. The first annual meeting of the society was held in Austin, December 13 and 14 following, and a membership of about thirty secured. Since that time this society has held regular annual meetings in December or January and has grown to a membership of nearly a hundred persons. The meetings have usually been held in Austin and Albert Lea, but several meetings have been held in Spring Valley, and one in Owatonna. The society has been carried on as an auxiliary of the state society, its members being entitled to all the privileges and publications of the state society, of which it has been by far the leading local auxiliary. The programs of the meetings and a large share of the papers read at its sessions may be found in the periodicals published by the state society. The following officers have been chosen from Freeborn county: President: A. W. Masee, 1905 to 1907, inclusive; L. P. H. Highby, 1908; C. M. Peterson, 1909 to 1911, inclusive. Vice President: Geo. H. Prescott, 1893 to 1894, inclusive; Jonathan Freeman, 1895 to 1901, inclusive; Mrs. C. E. Brainerd, 1902; P. Clausen, 1905 to 1908, inclusive. Secretary: Clarence Wedge, 1893 to 1897, inclusive; Mrs. C. E. Brainerd, 1900 to 1901, inclusive; Jonathan Freeman, 1902; L. P. H. Highby, 1903 to 1905, inclusive; O. M. Peterson, 1906 to 1908, inclusive. Treasurer: Chris Berthelsen, 1909 to 1911, inclusive.

**The Freeborn County Horticultural Society** was organized on January 24, 1903, by a few of the leading enthusiasts of the county, who wished to have an opportunity of getting together more frequently than is provided for by the annual meetings of the southern Minnesota society. Its charter members were: C.



Berthelsen, M. E. Giles, P. Clausen, C. L. Hill, A. W. Masee, O. M. Peterson, M. Fridholm, C. L. Luce, F. A. Rolph, Clarence Wedge, Geo H. Prescott, H. F. Hansen, D. C. Armstrong, J. O. Share, L. P. H. Highby.

This society has held frequent meetings, festivals and picnics and has proved a most valuable agency in promoting the remarkably fine fruit and floral exhibits of the county fair, and in working up interest in the meetings of the southern Minnesota society held in Albert Lea. In nearly all of the county fairs of Minnesota the fruit exhibit has thus far been one of the minor attractions. In Freeborn county the central exhibit under cover has for years past been the tables and fruits and flowers extending the whole length of the main building, and set forth and labeled with an accuracy and neatness excelled in no similar exhibit in this part of the country. The spirit of enterprise and good feeling that has made such things possible is largely due to the local organizations, which have brought about a closer acquaintance between fruit growers and nurserymen and a disposition on their part to work together for the general good.

The officers of the society have been as follows: President: M. E. Giles, 1903; A. W. Masee, 1904 to 1906, inclusive; L. P. H. Highby, 1907 to the present time. Secretary: L. P. H. Highby, 1903 to 1905, inclusive; O. M. Peterson, 1906; C. Berthelsen, 1907 to the present time. Treasurer: D. C. Armstrong, 1903 to 1905, inclusive; C. Berthelson, 1906; O. E. Dahlen, 1907 to the present time.

---

The author of this excellent article on the Horticulture of Freeborn County is himself one of the men who have made the horticultural development of the county possible. A thorough lover of God's outdoors and a close student of his chosen profession, he watches the wonderful revelations of Nature with affectionate observation and appreciation. The following biography tells something of the achievements which he has modestly omitted from the history of the progress of the art in which he has taken so deep an interest.

**Clarence Wedge**, one of the leading nurserymen and horticulturists of southern Minnesota, was born at a locality still called Wedge's Prairie, in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, June 30, 1856, son of Lucius P. Wedge and Mary Felicia (Clark) Wedge, the former one of the original proprietors of the village of Albert Lea. After his father's death, in 1858, Clarence was brought to Albert Lea by his mother and was here reared to manhood, attending the public schools and taking a three years' course in the University of Minnesota. His inclination to rural life was encouraged by his excellent stepfather, Augustus Armstrong, who gave careful at-



tention to his training and who had broad-minded and advanced ideas on the education and training of youth. In 1876 Mr. Wedge began the farm life that he had long looked forward to upon a 200-acre tract two miles southeast of Albert Lea, which he named Echo Farm. While engaged in general farming and stock raising he became more and more interested in tree and fruit growing till, in 1890, he established the first commercial nursery in Freeborn county. As the nursery enlarged he found that the soil at this place was poorly adapted to the use of labor-saving machinery and in 1900 removed to the historic site of Itasca village, two miles northwest of the city where the level land and lighter soil seems especially adapted to nursery purposes. In 1906 a partnership was formed between Clarence Wedge, the original owner, and his second son, Robert C., this partnership continuing to the present time.

Mr. Wedge is an earnest advocate of prohibition, having the honor of being nominated by his party for the position of lieutenant-governor, as well as for the office of congressman from this district. He is also an active worker in the Presbyterian body, one of the charter members and an elder of the Albert Lea church, and for several years served as its Sunday school superintendent. From December, 1902, to December, 1906, he served the Minnesota State Horticultural Society as president and he has also been prominent in other agricultural and horticultural organizations.

The subject of this sketch was married July 29, 1878, to Cornelia E. Todd, daughter of the Rev. J. D. Todd. She died in 1903, leaving nine children: Lucius P. lives in Washington, where he is engaged in nursery work; Robert C. is his father's partner; Jesse C. lives at Kelliher, Minn.; Margaret T. is now Mrs. Henry Todd of Crystal Springs, N. D.; Evelyn F. is a teacher in North Dakota; Philip is engaged in dairying at Walla Walla, Wash.; Ruth V., Ralph F. and Elizabeth are at home. Mr. Wedge was again married, June 17, 1905, to Mary B. Cutler, daughter of the late Ezekiel Cutler, of Decorah, Ia. They have one child, an adopted son, Alan C., born Aug. 25, 1907.

Mr. Wedge is an earnest believer in the possibilities of fruit growing in Minnesota and was the first to plant a commercial orchard in Freeborn county from which apples were shipped in car lots, his young orchard of about thirty acres at Echo Farm having several times furnished three car loads for outside markets. He was also the first of our orchardists to recognize the value and adopt the process of topworking to produce true winter apples and has already grown by this method over 180 bushels in one season, composed of such standard sorts as Golden Russet, Windsor Chief, Talman Sweet, Fameuse, York Imperial and Jonathan, varieties that can not at this time be grown by any other process in this section. He also takes much satisfaction in the varieties



which he has introduced to this section of the state, among which the following are worthy of special mention: 1st—The Hibernian apple, now generally recognized as the standard of hardiness and the best of all stocks to topwork with winter varieties; 2d—The Beta grape, the first good grape to endure this climate unprotected; 3d—The Spirea Van Houttei, the most popular of all ornamental shrubs; 4th—The Hybrid Rugosa roses, the first of the everblooming roses to live through Minnesota winters without cover; 5th—The Rocky Mountain conifers, such as the Colorado blue spruce, the Douglas and Concolor fir and the Ponderosa pine, now generally recognized as making the most satisfactory evergreens to plant in Minnesota and the Dakotas. In addition to this Mr. Wedge was one of the first to recognize the value of the evergreen as a shelter tree for the western prairies and has made it a special object to encourage its planting for windbreak purposes. The larger share of the beautiful evergreen belts that protect the farm homes of Freeborn and adjoining counties were grown and distributed from the Wedge Nursery.

For a considerable period Mr. Wedge's place was used as an experiment station for new trees and fruits introduced by the state, and so much of interest has accumulated about the nursery that it has become a Mecca for the horticulturists of the Mississippi valley.

There is perhaps nothing in which Mr. Wedge takes more pride than in the young men who have been employed with him at various times and having caught some of his enthusiasm for plant life have taken up horticultural work for themselves. Among these may be mentioned: George W. Strand of Taylor's Falls, Minn., the largest and best-known nurseryman of northern Minnesota; O. M. Peterson, the proprietor of the Albert Lea Nursery, president of the Southern Minnesota Horticultural Society, and present secretary of the Freeborn County Agricultural Society; L. P. H. Highby, president of the Freeborn County Horticultural Society, and member of the park board of Albert Lea, a recognized authority in northern pomology; J. O. Share of Albert Lea, proprietor of the Norden Nursery; Chris. M. Jensen of Albert Lea, a specialist in the dahlia, and superintendent of the horticultural department at the county fair; Chris. Berthelsen, of Albert Lea, for some years a nurseryman, and present secretary of the Freeborn County Horticultural Society.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### EARLY ALBERT LEA. .

**Picturesque Location—Ruble and Merry Arrive in 1855—Colby and Lilly Settle in the Township—Merry Sells to Thorne and Wedge—Settlers of 1856—Principal Arrivals of 1857—Platting the Village—Early Business Interests—Albert Lea in 1858—Hotels.**

For centuries the present site of Albert Lea lay untouched by the work of man. No more beautiful landscape could be found than that seen by the first pioneers of this vicinity, standing on the high plateau where the postoffice is now located and looking southeast at the distant view of Lake Albert Lea. Her green sloping shores, studded with scattering burr oak trees, her waters sparkling and deep, her coastline well defined and free from marsh or weeds, all combined to make a scene of surpassing loveliness. Where the Rock Island station is now located the water was deep and clear as crystal. Fountain lake, it is true, was marshy and unsightly. But it was hid from view by a skirt of large timber, extending from Bridge street to Park avenue west, and covering all the Ballard's point north of Mariners' lane. Where Spring Lake park is now located was a picturesque sheet of water on whose bosom were found many wild ducks. To the south, distant hills were covered with scattering burr oak trees, lending pleasing variety to the rolling landscape and giving promise of the fruitfulness which would follow the effort of the husbandman.

The nearly three-score years which have passed since then have wrought an almost unbelievable change. The plateau is now the site of the thriving city, with its busy paved streets, its prosperous mercantile and business houses, its successful factories, and its beautiful residences surrounded with velvet lawns. Lake Albert Lea is now unsightly, partly filled up and with marshy shores unpleasing to the eye. Fountain lake is a pretty sheet of water, circled by a well-kept boulevard and skirted with comfortable residences, well-trimmed lawns, grassy slopes and scattering timber. In the distance well-tilled farms, substantial country homes and productive pastures have taken the place of burr oak and wild grass, and excellent thoroughfares and modern railways ramify the landscape in every direction.

The first settler on the present site of Albert Lea was Lorenzo Merry, who came June 1, 1855, and built a cabin on the





WILLIAM MORIN  
1827-1887



WILLIAM A. MORIN  
1864



WILLIAM T. MORIN  
1894





southeast corner of Washington and Water streets. He had previously, however, been here earlier in the year and camped several days. Merry was a native of New York state and he and another man left that state under a cloud, it being alleged that they had borrowed \$10,000 which they had failed to repay. In 1853 Merry came west and settled at the present site of Merry's Ford in Iowa, on the Cedar, three miles below the Iowa state line. In 1854 he lost all that he possessed. Accordingly in the spring of 1855 he started out with his wife and four children, Edward, John, Nettie and Fetty, ranging from twelve to five years, to seek a home further to the westward. He had two covered wagons, household equipment and a herd of loose cattle. Arriving at the beautiful prairie now occupied by Albert Lea he camped for several days and then continued westward, visiting the vicinity of Winnebago City and other places. Finding nothing to suit him he came back to Albert Lea, June 1, 1855, and became its first settler.

Merry pre-empted a quarter section on the west side of what is now Broadway, described as follows: The southeast quarter of the northeast quarter; the east half of the southeast quarter, and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, all in section 8. Merry sold one forty to Thomas Thorne and three forties to Lucius P. Wedge. He reserved for himself small pieces of land, including the site of his home. In 1858 he moved to the north bank of Walnut lake, Faribault county, five miles southwest of Wells, where he erected a large farmhouse which he conducted as a country hotel. Later he moved to a point twenty-five miles above Bismarck on the Missouri river in North Dakota. He died some thirty years ago.

While Merry was the first settler on the present site of Albert Lea, he was an impediment to progress. He was coarse and uncouth and far from desirable as a town proprietor. The greatest blessing which Albert Lea has ever had was the sale of the major portion of the Merry claim to Lucius P. Wedge. Mr. Wedge was a man of attractive personality, culture, refinement and much business ability, and though he died early, his ownership of a part of the original town plat was a most important influence in making Albert Lea the city it is today. This purchase brought here his brother-in-law, Austin D. Clark; his widow, Mary Felicia Clark Wedge, who afterwards married Augustus Armstrong; his niece, Margaret Wedge, who married William Morin; his nephew, Dr. A. C. Wedge, his young son, Clarence Wedge, and several others. All of these had an important part in molding the life of the community. The residence of L. P. Wedge here was very short. He spent the winter of 1856-57 at Merry's and then went back to Wisconsin. After a search for



health in various places, he died without ever again seeing his Minnesota village.

The second comer to Albert Lea was George S. Ruble. Ruble was a resident of Beloit, Wis. He came to Freeborn county in July, 1855, and looking over the slough that is now Fountain lake, decided that the lower end was a suitable location for a dam and mill. In examining the country further, he concluded that possibly the outlet of Albert Lea lake in section 25 was a better site. LyBrand and Thompson had started the village of St. Nicholas in section 26, a mile west of this latter site, and doubtless Mr. Ruble's sound business sense convinced him that the concentration of efforts at one point, with a mill nearby, would be better than attempting to start a diversity of townsites. Accordingly he proposed to LyBrand and Thompson that he go into partnership with them and be given half the townsite of St. Nicholas in return for building a mill and booming the village for county seat honors. On this proposition hung the future of Albert Lea. Had it been accepted the site of the present city would doubtless still be a stretch of farming and grazing lands. But LyBrand and Thompson shortsightedly rejected the proposition and Ruble decided to establish a village of his own. Accordingly he came to Albert Lea and during the autumn brought his wife and son; Charles Newton Ruble, here, building his cabin at 522 Bridge street. This cabin was a double log house, eighteen by eighteen and fourteen by eighteen feet. Ruble made preparations for building a dam and the next year erected a mill.

Ruble's claim lay on the east side of Broadway and was described as follows: The southeast quarter of the northwest quarter; the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and the west half of the southwest quarter, all in section 9. In 1856 he platted land on the east side of Broadway, the plat being surveyed by Charles C. Colby. Later he platted a tract east of the present city.

With Ruble as workmen came Saxon C. Roberts, Joseph Willford, who was afterwards frozen to death in Martin county; Charles F. Warren, H. V. Henderson, A. Ableman, J. Adrian, L. C. Roberts, John B. Lenox, John Ryan, Louis Osgood, Edward Murphy, Arthur Boulton, Edward Henderson and David Irons. The payroll of these men commenced on November 2, 1855. Of these but two remained in the county after the Civil War. Ryan lived a number of years in Nunda township and then moved to the southern part of Steele county, where he died. Murphy acquired considerable land east of the city and remained in this vicinity until his death a few years ago.

A settlement was also made in the northwestern part of the



township in 1855. Early in the spring of that year a party of eastern people left Wisconsin, where they had stopped for a time, and headed toward southern Minnesota. The party consisted of Bethuel Lilly and wife, John Colby and wife and the seven Colby children, six daughters and one son. They arrived at Caledonia, Houston county, this state, May 18, 1855, and there part of the little colony decided to remain, while the balance should push on further west in search of homes. Accordingly C. C. Colby and Sarah Jane Colby, afterward Mrs. Orville Kenfield, now deceased, and Mr. and Mrs. Bethuel Lilly came to Freeborn county and settled in section 6, Albert Lea township. In the fall C. C. Colby went back to Caledonia and brought here two of his sisters, Mary A., now Mrs. Daniel Hurd, and Margaret Ellen, now Mrs. Isaac Botsford. The next year the parents came and with them four more daughters, Emily, now Mrs. Anthony Huyck; Elizabeth, now Mrs. O. F. Peck; Clara, now Mrs. Leander J. Thomas, and Maria, now Mrs. Hanibal Bickford, deceased.

The spring of 1856 opened with but five houses at or near what is now Albert Lea city. The locations of Ruble, Merry, Colby and LyBrand and Thompson have been mentioned. A man named Wilder had a cabin on section 12, Pickerel Lake township, two miles west of the city. This man Wilder left hurriedly in the spring of 1856, selling his claim to John Ruble. Wilder had been selling whisky to the Indians and learned that the government officials were on his trail, hence his hasty leavetaking.

In the spring of 1856 came William Morin, Julius Clark, William Kellar, J. D. Dudley, J. C. Baer, John Ruble, David Stilson, A. W. White, Daniel Hurd, Hanibal Bickford and Benjamin Frost. Peter Clausen, Bradford Blackmer and the Hoopes, father and son (Moses and George P), came some time during the year. In the fall came Capt. Thomas Thorne, Isaac W. McReynolds and Lucius P. Wedge. Probably there were others, more or less transient, whose names are not recalled. All of these mentioned were not actually within the township, but as the village was their business and social center they were regarded as Albert Lea people.

Morin boarded with Merry and took land in the west part of present city. His biography appears elsewhere.

Julius Clark was the first merchant in Albert Lea. The early fifties found him engaged in the mercantile business in Ohio. Adversity staring him in the face in the fall of 1855, he quietly boxed a portion of his goods and shipped them to the Ohio river, thence down that river and up the Mississippi to Brownsville, Minn., in the southeastern corner of the state. In March, 1856, he arrived in the prospective village of Albert Lea. Ruble per-



suaded him that this was the proper place for his activities and presented him with two lots. In May notice was received that the goods had arrived at Brownsville. Clark had no money and William Morin, George S. Ruble and William Kellar advanced him the wherewithal to pay the freight and bring the goods here. When the goods arrived no building had been erected and they were unloaded on the open prairie in front of 119 East Clark street. A "bee" was at once gotten up and the entire population loaned a hand in erecting a small log hut at that location. It is from this man that the street takes its name. Mr. Clark lived in the store and kept house for himself. He remained here about two years and then closed out and went back to Ohio. It is worthy of note that the first purchase made at the store was that of a door latch by William Kellar, this latch being still preserved in the family.

Bradford Blackmer came in 1856 and purchased the Stilson claim west of the city. He boarded with Clark and stayed but a short time. He visited the county later, but never again located here.

William Kellar took up land in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 17. He boarded at Merry's for a while and then built a cabin for himself. In September he went back to Wisconsin and brought his family here. This family arrived September 27, 1856, and consisted of a wife and three sons, Curtis B., William G. and Martin V., aged respectively ten, eight and six years.

J. D. Dudley came from Ohio and took a claim in section 17. In July he went back and got his family, consisting of a wife and one girl, two years old. For a time they lived in the covered wagon in which they came and spent the first winter at the cabin of J. C. Baer. His son, Frank C. Dudley, born October 8, 1856, was the first white child born in the township. Mr. Dudley moved to the city of Albert Lea many years ago and died some time since.

J. C. Baer settled in section 17. In 1859 he moved to Colorado, but came back in 1864 and enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. In 1865 he was married at Laporte, Ind., to a Miss Ward, a resident of Freeborn county. Later he again moved to Colorado, had three children and there lost his wife. In 1891 he came back to Albert Lea and in May, 1892, died at the Minnesota Soldiers' Home in Minneapolis.

David Stilson, an American, with a large family located on section 8, Albert Lea township, in the spring of 1856, but sold his claim to the Blackmer family in October of the same year and in the spring of 1857 removed to the banks of the Blue Earth



river, a short distance below the present site of Winnebago City. Mr. Blackmer lived on this farm until his death in 1877.

John Ruble, was a member of the farming community which formed about the village of Albert Lea. His claim, however, was over the line in section 12, Pickerel Lake, where he bought out one Wilder, and there spent the remainder of his days.

A. W. White, like Ruble, settled on section 12, Pickerel Lake. His biography appears elsewhere.

Hannibal Bickford, who had previously been elsewhere in the county, located in section 36, in the township of Manchester. His was the first marriage in the county. He lived in the county many years, then went to Tacoma, Wash.

Daniel Hurd came in the early season of 1856 and located east of Hatch bridge, directly north of the city, in section 5. The place is now known as the Washington Lee farm. Hurd was at that time unmarried. He filed on his land and boarded at Merry's. On January 13, 1857, he was married and erected at 121 East Clark street, the first house which was built in the platted portion of the city. He has a widow and two sons, George and Frank, still living in Albert Lea.

Timothy J. Sheehan worked for Ruble and lived at his house. He attained distinction in the Indian campaign and served many years as sheriff of the county. He now lives in St. Paul.

Benjamin Frost and large family settled in section 19, Bancroft township. He lived here several years after the war, and then went to Missouri. The family consisted of four sons, Gardner, Mahlon L., Jacob C., and Benjamin Jr., and three daughters, Mary, Ellen and Flora.

Peter Clausen took a claim in the southwest quarter of section 5, Albert Lea township. His family remained many years. It has been said that Clausen came as early as 1855 and that his father-in-law, Even Evenson Keale (Quale) came at the same time.

The Hoopes remained but a short time; their claim was some three miles east of the village.

Capt. Thomas Thorne located with his family near the present site of the Episcopal church on Park avenue. He left about 1858. He purchased forty acres from Merry and was one of the original town proprietors.

Isaac W. McReynolds had served in the Black Hawk War and participated in the battle of Bad Axe. He arrived here October 4, 1856, and lived a year with William Kellar. He took up a claim in section 7, one mile west of the courthouse and built a house and broke the land. In 1857 he brought his family here and remained here until his death at a very old age. He farmed, preached and officiated at funerals. He was often



called upon to preside at weddings, but not having joined the conference was not qualified to do so.

Lucius P. Wedge spent but a short time here, but exerted a lasting influence on the city. His biography appears elsewhere.

The opening of the year of 1857 found but six buildings in the village. The Ruble house was at 522 Bridge street, and his mill was at the foot of Fountain lake. The Thorne house was on Park avenue, between Grove and Fountain streets. An empty building, erected as a store, but later used as a schoolhouse was on the southeast corner of the present postoffice block; Clark's store was at 119 East Clark street, and Merry's house was at the southeast corner of Washington and Water streets. The winter had been the most severe ever known in Minnesota. After a snowfall of four feet came a drizzling sleet followed by a sharp freeze, thus forming a heavy crust. The settlers suffered the discomforts of the cold weather, but there was not that distressing lack of provisions which was felt the following winter.

In 1857, the arrivals in Albert Lea village were as follows: Samuel Eaton and wife; A. P. Swineford and N. T. Grey, single; D. Cheney Brock Woodruff, wife, and fifteen-year-old son; William Grey, single; James Kenyon and family; Dr. A. C. Wedge, single; John G. Godley, single; Fritz Ewald, Truman Robinson and family; Isaac Botsford, single; D. G. Parker, single; A. B. Webber, single; Ruben Williams and family, Timothy Sheehan, single; Austin D. Clark, single; C. N. Norton and family; J. W. Brownsell and family; R. J. Horning, single; H. T. Smith, single; S. C. Sears, single; J. France, single; John Q. Fitzgerald; David Crowfoot and family; a number of men who worked for Ruble and various transients, including Newcomer and Barnes who planned to open a store.

Among those who came to the township in 1857, were: Dr. Franklin Blackmer and family; Father Isaac W. McRenolds family; J. B. Clifton and family; Andrew and Thomas Wilson with mother and a number of brothers and sisters; John and Jerry Calahan and the wife of the former; John Murtaugh and family; Ole Stugo and family; B. J. House and son; Leander Cooley and family; Chauncey Cooley and family; George W. Webster and family; John Y. Edleman; William H. Hoag and family, and possibly others.

**Albert Lea in 1858.** When the first term of public school closed in Albert Lea in March, 1858, there were but nineteen buildings of any importance in the village. Capt. Thomas Thorne had a house about where the Episcopal church is now located. A small brick house, built by John Y. Edleman had been erected on the southwest corner of Clark and St. Mary's street. S. C. Sears had started a house, which was later torn down, on the



east side of St. Mary's street between Clark and Water streets. Kenyon's hotel, built by George P. Hoopes, in 1857, stood on the southwest corner of Clark and Washington streets. Lorenzo Merry's residence was on the southeast corner of Washington and Water streets. Five buildings stood on the west side of Broadway. John W. Brownsill's house, which in after years was known as the Eaton house, was on the southwest corner of Broadway and Water streets. The office of Dr. A. C. Wedge, which was also occupied by William Morin was on the west side of Broadway, between Clark and William streets. North of it was a small building used as an office by Augustus Armstrong. The Webber house was on the northwest corner of Broadway and Main; and north of it was a house erected by H. D. Brown. On the east side of Broadway, a short distance north of William street was a building in which William L. Gray kept a saloon. On the north side of Clark street, a short distance east of Broadway, stood the first frame house in the village, built by Daniel Hurd in 1857. This building was long known as the Stacy house. West of this was Clark's log store. The post-office, kept by Samuel Eaton, was on the west side of Newton street, between Clark and William. Alf. P. Swineford's house was on the northwest corner of Elizabeth and Clark street. The old log store, in which Austin Clark kept school, was on the northwest corner of William and Elizabeth street. North of this was the printing office of the "Southern Minnesota Star." Ruble's house and mill were on the east side of Bridge street.

### PLATTING THE VILLAGE.

**Platting the village.** The land comprising the principal parts of the city of Albert Lea was pre-empted in 1856 by Lorenzo Merry and George S. Ruble. Merry pre-empted the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter; the east half of the southeast quarter; and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter: all in section 8. Part of this lay in Fountain lake. Ruble pre-empted the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter; the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter; and the west half of the southwest quarter, all in section 9. August 13, 1856, Merry sold the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter to Capt. Thomas A. Thorne for \$200.00, and these three, Ruble, Merry and Thorne platted the town of Albert Lea.

Each proprietor donated a square for public use. The present courthouse square was donated by Ruble, and the present public square, by Merry. Thorne donated the third block west of Broadway, north of College street and south of Spring lake for college purposes. This latter block not being used for the



purpose for which it was intended reverted to Thorne's successor. This block is now the middle of block 4, the Danish Lutheran church being near its southwest corner.

The plat was surveyed by C. C. Colby. It was filed with the register of deeds of Dodge county, October 29, 1856. It is interesting to note that in one of the acknowledgments of the filing of the original plat appear the words "Village of Lake Albert Lea," but aside from this the town has borne its present name from the very beginning. The plat was filed with the register of deeds of Freeborn county, February 24, 1859. In the meantime, February 3, 1857, Merry transferred to Lucius P. Wedge for \$2,500, the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter; the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter; and the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, all in section 8; reserving for himself the east halves of blocks 8 and 6 and also lots 13 and 16 in block 3, which on January 6, 1857, had been deeded to Dexter and Ripley.

Dr. A. C. Wedge came here as the representative of Lucius P. Wedge, but after the death of the latter, Austin D. Clark was his administrator. Thorne disposed of his interests to William Morin. Owing to a stretching of the chain when the original survey was made, various complications ultimately arose, and in 1868, and again in 1873 certain acts of the legislature legalized the plat of the city and also dealt with the vacating of several small tracts. Since the recording of the original plat many additions, sub-divisions and out-lots have been platted.

An interesting incident in the platting of Albert Lea was the attempt of George S. Ruble to found another townsite east of what is now Albert Lea, part of it being in the lake. Ruble gained the ear of Judge William H. Welch, who under the townsite law entered what he called the townsite of Albert Lea lying largely in the northeast quarter of section 9. Ruble and a man named Thomas J. Smith, of Red Wing, advertised this plat widely as Albert Lea, county seat of Freeborn county. Some lots were sold, the plat was finally vacated and the tracts became what until a very recent date, has been the Ruble farm.

### EARLY BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The first mercantile establishment of any kind in Albert Lea was the store of Julius Clark, from whom Clark street is named. As before related, he brought a stock of goods from Ohio, and the pioneers assisted in erecting a log building at 119 East Clark street. In this building the store was opened late in June, 1856, and in it also Clark, who was a bachelor, made his home. Mr. Clark conducted the store until 1858. The building was vacant for some time, but stood for many years. Ole Tang conducted



a shoe shop there later. Lorenzo Merry being postmaster, appointed Squire Clark his assistant, and for a time the postoffice was kept in his store.

Late in 1856 a small building was erected on the southeast corner of the postoffice block for mercantile purposes and some shelving was put in by Newcomer & Barnes, but no goods were sold here. The first school in Albert Lea was held in this building.

The first blacksmith shop in the city of Albert Lea was opened in the spring of 1857 by David Crowfoot at 425 Bridge street. He began work under a large oak tree, but in a few weeks built a small shop. In the fall of the year he moved his shop to his claim, three miles east of the city. The next blacksmith was Anson Hanff, who had a shop on Newton street, just north of the present postoffice, from 1858 until after the war.

Joseph France came here some time in 1857 and opened a gunsmith shop on a small scale, probably in his home. Later he operated a tinshop. His first advertisement as a gunsmith appears in the "Southern Minnesota Star," January 14, 1858.

Samuel Eaton and Brock Woodruff, his brother-in-law, came to Albert Lea in 1857 and moved into Daniel Hurd's house at 121 East Clark street, where they sold general merchandise. Woodruff and Eaton dissolved partnership in January, 1858, and Brock Woodruff and Alfred P. Swineford continued the business.

A brickyard was opened in 1857 by G. W. Watrous, who for a short time had S. C. Sears for a partner. This yard was located about half a mile below Luther Academy on the Glenville road. They made brick for three buildings; one of them is still standing at the southeast corner of Broadway and Clark street; one is now torn down, which was located on the east side of St. Mary's street, about half way between Water and Clark streets, and one stands at 301 West Clark street.

The first drug store was opened by Dr. A. C. Wedge in 1857 at 140 South Broadway. This building was also used as an office by William Morin. The building has been moved and is still standing on the west side of South Pearl street near the track.

Albert Lea's first attorney, Augustus Armstrong, erected a small building just north of Dr. Wedge's drug store, and opened a general law office. Alfred B. Webber also practiced law in 1857.

In 1856 Christian Fleck opened a shoe shop at his claim shanty at 720 South Washington street.

Alfred P. Swineford and N. T. Gray came in March, 1857, moved their equipment into a building erected by George S. Ruble at 124 Elizabeth street, and on July 11, 1857, issued the first number of the "Southern Minnesota Star."

A saloon was opened at 137 South Broadway by William L.



Gray in 1857. He closed out his business in 1861. The second saloon, located a few doors south of Clark street on the west side of Broadway, was owned by Francis Hall and was opened in 1860 by Charles Kittleson. After he enlisted, various men were hired to conduct the place.

Col. Samuel Eaton opened a shoe shop in 1857 at his home on the west side of Newton street, between Clark and William. He also kept the postoffice in this place during the war. A few trinkets were kept for sale here. Walter Thompson was an assistant in this shop during the war.

In 1857 H. T. Smith started the manufacture of shingles in an open lot. Fritz Ewald started making sash and doors the same year.

The first wagon shop was built on the site of the present government postoffice in 1858. John W. Brownsill, the builder, continued the business until 1869.

A store was opened by Monson, Pierce & Ferris in a building at the northeast corner of Main and Broadway some time in the year 1858. They remained in business here for a year, after which the store became vacant. During that vacancy the trial of Henry Kreigler for murder of Nelson Boughton was started and the term of court was held in this room, a change of venue being taken to Steele county. The last occupant of the building was Andrew Palmer, Jr., who after conducting the store for a while, opened a butter and renovating establishment here. A brick block now occupies the site.

In April, 1858, A. W. Leland began advertising as a house, sign, carriage and wagon painter.

A general store was opened by Francis Hall on the north side of Clark street, a few doors west of Broadway, in the fall of 1858. It was erected by A. C. Wedge and William Morin. In 1860 Mr. Hall erected the brick building which still stands at the southeast corner of Clark street and Broadway. This left the Clark street store vacant and John L. Dimock put in a small stock of goods. After a few months the store again became vacant and remained so until George Whitman put in a general stock of groceries and dry goods about 1862. He remained in business until after the war. Later the building was used for various purposes and was finally torn down in 1906. Francis Hall in 1860 moved his goods from the store on the north side of Clark street to the building he erected that year on the southeast corner of Clark street and Broadway. He conducted this store for many years. He sold out to Capt. A. W. White, who conducted a grocery store there. The first banking business in the city was started in this building under Mr. Hall's charge. There have been various occupants of the place, W. A. Irvin now using



it as a successful cigar store and Jacob Petersen as a barber shop. The historic "Standard" occupies the rooms overhead, which were originally used by Francis Hall as a residence some seven years until he erected what is now the Hotel Freeborn.

The newspapers of the period mention the names of several other firms, but none of them seem to have actually located here. Aside from the shingle machine of H. T. Smith, several machines of this nature, more or less successful, were operated in connection with the Ruble mill. The early hotels and the Ruble mill are mentioned elsewhere, thus completing the list of the industries represented in Albert Lea previous to 1859, together with some of their immediate successors.

**The Ruble Mill.** George S. Ruble came to Albert Lea in 1855 and made plans for the building of a mill at the foot of what is now Fountain lake. The acreage now covered by that lake was then a marsh and wiregrass slough. Ruble built a dam on the ice, expecting that when the ice melted the dam would drop into place. This was not a success, however, as the logs drifted away. The dam was finally built at its present location in the spring of 1856 and the sawmill started in October at 502 Bridge street. Late in 1857 a corn cracker was put in and was operated by S. B. Sherwood. In 1859 a flour mill was added. In 1861 the wasteway washed out and the mill was damaged beyond repair. From 1861 to 1868 Fountain lake remained a swamp filled with wild rice, sometimes growing to a height of eight feet. In 1867 Francis Hall repaired the dam, thus forming the present lake. He erected a flouring mill at the main outlet, and after conducting it for a time rented it to H. M. Avery. It ceased to be used for flouring purposes in 1886. For a few years thereafter it was used as a feedmill and then moved away.

### ALBERT LEA HOTELS.

Lorenzo Merry, who arrived in Albert Lea in 1855, kept a boarding house in 1856 and a part of 1857, and several of the first settlers stayed there preparing for permanent settlement before bringing their families here. In 1857 he erected a board reading, "Strangers' Home," this being undoubtedly the first hotel sign erected in Freeborn county. George S. Ruble, who came the same year, boarded the men who came to work for him and also entertained casual visitors and travelers. Aside from this it should be remembered that old-fashioned hospitality was practiced by all the first settlers, and travelers were always welcome to share in the already crowded cabins and the scanty fare.

**Kenyon House.** The first regular hotel to be opened in Albert Lea was the Kenyon house. This was built by George Hoops



at 201 West Clark street during the summer of 1857. The house was rented to James Kenyon and opened by him in the late summer of 1857. The house was two stories high about thirty by sixty. The lumber was sawed at George Ruble's sawmill and the building was constructed barn fashion, with the boards running up and down. On the lower floor were the office, the kitchen, the dining room and a small baggage room. The upper floor was devoted to sleeping rooms. Mr. Kenyon closed his house in 1858 and went to Mitchell, Iowa. The house was used as a residence until 1870 and was later torn down.

**Webber House.** This was the second hotel in Albert Lea and stood on the northwest corner of Broadway and Main streets. It was opened November 24, 1857, but was not entirely completed at that time. A. B. Webber conducted the place for himself a while. In 1858 he rented it to Charles Jones, and in 1859 to Brock Woodruff. In 1860 it was purchased by James Robson. Mr. Robson was sheriff of the county and it was in the attic that Henry Kreigler was confined for a time, and from here he was led to execution in 1861. The house passed through various hands afterward, until Walter J. Martin took hold of it. When he started farming the house was left vacant and was never thereafter used as a hotel. H. D. Brown was the owner for many years. For a time a part of it was used as a butcher shop. Then it remained vacant for several years. The Nelson Bros. later erected their present store there.

Around this house clusters much of the early history of Albert Lea. The house was two stories high, well built, and substantial looking, a credit to the town in those days. On the Broadway side was a large stoop, with a veranda overhead. Off from this opened the bar room, so-called, and the ladies' parlor. Back of these on Main street was the dining room, and back of the dining room, also on Main street, but not extending the full width of the house was the kitchen. In the upper story were the sleeping rooms, and the historic ball room was over the kitchen and a part of the dining room. The stairs to the upper story lead from the hall which separated the bar room from the ladies' parlor. In the ladies' parlor school was kept by Adrian K. Norton in the winter of 1859-60. In the ballroom the first Masonic initiation was held, and the Masons met there for some time. The first war meeting in the county was held here, presided over by Judge E. C. Stacy, a noted Democrat. The first term of court was held here, presided over by Judge N. M. Donaldson. A donation to Elder Philo Camfield, of the Congregational church was one of the early social events in the house, and here, too, was held the funeral of W. K. Boyles, who was killed August 14, 1858, his being the second death, and first public funeral in the



village. Shows and concerts were also given in the ball room, and in the fall of 1864 a portrait gallery was opened there by C. G. Edwards. It was destroyed by fire, June 24, 1887. Dr. A. C. Wedge says: "The first important social event I can remember was the ball given in honor of the opening of this hotel. This building was far from being finished when this party was given, but the ballroom was ready and enough more of the house to furnish fair accommodation for the guests. I remember while making plans to attend this party, it struck me all of a sudden that I should have a lady partner. As a matter of fact, being a bashful and verdant youth, I had never up to this time managed to muster up enough courage to invite a young lady to be my partner at any kind of social gathering. But it had to be done, as I was expected to do my part in this affair. (I will say right here in parenthesis, that my being compelled to find a partner for this opening party was something of an epoch in my own history, as the lady who kindly accepted my blundering invitation has ever been faithful since that time; and she yet remains my 'best girl.') I cannot tell you much about the party, though my impression was that it was a swell affair. Everybody was there. Delegates were present from Austin, Northwood, Geneva, Itasca and Shell Rock. The house full to overflowing, the music was good, and the midnight supper excellent. Soon after the event the building was finished, and during the remainder of the winter, social gatherings were frequent and enjoyable—in fact I may say that for several years after this, Albert Lea was quite a social center, because of its roominess and quite good hotel accommodations. But it was not the social gatherings that made the Webber House historical. The historical ballroom was not altogether used for music and dancing. Religious services were quite frequently held here. The venerable Rev. Samuel Lowry, a Presbyterian clergyman of the old school, preached quite frequently in this hall. He was a good old man and we all went to hear him. He was faithful and earnest and his gracious words were for the betterment of our young community. A number of other ministers held services in this hall. Among them I remember the Rev. Cook, then of Austin. The next summer after the Webber House was completed, political meetings were held in this hall. I remember quite well of hearing Governor Ramsey; William Windom and Ignatius Donnelly from a platform in this hall—speakers, who, when living, did credit to any platform in any city. Also later James Cavanugh, Amos Cogswell and John L. Gillman were heard from the same platform. During the presidential campaign of 1859, Gen. C. C. Andrews and the late Governor Miller held a joint political discussion in this same old hall. It was



there that I had the honor of being initiated into the mystery of Free Masonry, and I well remember with what ability and dignity the worshipful master, Capt. A. W. White, presided at that time. Here were held all the social gatherings of the order for a year or two. His Honor, the late Judge Donaldson, presided here as judge of the District Court, the bench being literally at the west end of the small old hall. Here Kreigler was confined after his conviction and from here he was taken to the place of execution about where the Milwaukee railroad crosses Broadway. This old ballroom was often the place of the meetings of political nominating committees. The late Hon. George Watson received his second nomination for the state senate here. His first was in my office before the hotel was built. The Hon. Aug. Armstrong received his first nomination here for state legislature. After the firing on Fort Sumter and the war was on the old Webber house was the storm center of Freeborn county. Here was heard the fife and drum and the patriotic speech making. War meetings were frequent. How well I remember the earnest and burning words of the late Judge E. C. Stacy as he urged the young men to shoulder the musket and go forth to fight for home and country. It was here that most of the recruiting was done for our first company for the war (Co. F. 4th Minnesota Vol. Inf.), commanded by Capt. A. W. White."

**Western Home.** This hotel opened in Albert Lea was the Western Home, located on the southeast corner of William and Newton streets. The building was erected as a dwelling on the southwest corner of William and Clark streets by Ole I. Ellingson and therein was kept for a time the county treasurer's office. In 1864 it was moved by Frank Hall to the southeast corner of William and Newton streets. It was remodeled, some additions built and used as a private residence for renting purposes. About 1871 it was opened by Charles Robinson as a hotel and named the Western Home. He conducted it for a few years and it was afterward again converted into a tenement.

**Gilbert House.** This building was erected by Morin, Anderson and others in 1868 and was conducted as a cheese factory. S. S. Sutton came into possession of the property and converted it into a hotel known as the Lake house. After a while it was sold to Warren Gilbert, who owned it for many years. The lessees were Gardner & Hunter, and after a while Mr. Hunter conducted it alone. During this time it was changed to the Gardner house and later to its present name. John B. Foote conducted it for many years. The present proprietor and owner is C. M. Overly. The location is at the southwest corner of College and Washington streets. The place is well conducted and enjoys an excellent reputation. Since its original opening it has been much en-



larged. It is worthy of note that the name of the Lake house was derived from the fact that an arm of Spring lake reached to the rear of the house, and in the early days sail boats were enabled to land at its very doors.

**Hall House.** The Hall house, which is the present Freeborn hotel, was erected about 1867 by Frank Hall as a residence and was regarded as a mansion in those days. Some years later Mr. Hall employed a man named Foster to open the place as a hotel, but Mr. Hall soon assumed the management himself and conducted the place until the middle eighties. It has passed through various hands and is now owned by the Hall House Company and managed by F. A. Snow. From the time of the opening of the hotel by Mr. Hall it enjoyed an excellent reputation and was for many years considered one of the finest hotels in southern Minnesota, contributing not a little to Albert Lea's prosperity and importance.

**National Hotel.** This hotel which in the early days was also known as the National house, had its beginning with a saloon conducted by Daniel Heising. Andrew Rolfson opened it as a hotel about 1875 and conducted it for some years. Its best known proprietor was H. A. Crandall, who took hold of the place in the fall of 1882. It has passed through various hands, has been gutted by fire, several times remodeled and additions made and is still run as a boarding house and hotel. Its location is at 223 East Clark street. The property is now owned by Vegger Gulbrandson.

**Winslow House.** This hotel is located in the Minneapolis & St. Louis station, which company owns it, and was completed after that road was put through in 1878. A Mr. Bunker conducted it for some time and then sold to Frank Hall, who was the landlord for many years. It is a two-story brick building and enjoys considerable patronage. After passing through various hands it is now conducted as a hotel and eating house by W. T. Springer.

**The La Crosse house** was built and opened in 1877 by L. Oentrich at 137 West Clark street. It is still conducted as a small hotel and boarding house by his widow.

**The City hotel** was located on Clark street, east of William street, opposite the National house. It was started by William Fenholt, as a saloon, a few years after the war and by him changed to a hotel, with a feed barn in connection. He conducted it for many years and later sold it to Thomas Porter. Still later it ceased to be a hotel.

**Hotel Freeborn.** This is the leading American hotel in Albert Lea and is the old Hall house, with additions and improvements. It is conducted by F. A. Snow. The hotel is a beautiful building.

surrounded by a wide lawn, plentifully set with trees. The manager and employes are courteous and obliging, the cuisine is excellent, and the rooms comfortable both summer and winter. The place is filled to its utmost capacity throughout the year.

**Newton House.** This is a pleasant brick building at the southwest corner of Main and Newton streets and was erected in the early nineties on the site of the first Catholic church. Under the management of W. T. Springer it attained considerable importance. It has had various proprietors and enjoys some patronage. It is owned by Bennett Asleon.

**The Hanson house** is a successful European hotel at 326 South Broadway. It is principally a rooming house and its rooms are in much demand. Albert Lea house is at 323 South Ermina street, and the Metropolitan house at 123 West Clark street.

**Hotel Albert.** This hotel is conducted on the European plan, Charles Jorgensen being the manager. The structure is of masonry brick, with the interior finished in brick and marble. It occupies the northeast corner of Broadway and College street and was erected at a cost of \$65,000 by Charles Jorgensen, W. A. Morin and C. A. Ransom. Work commenced May 5, 1899. and the formal opening was held May 4, 1900.







C. L. SWENSON



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### MUNICIPAL ALBERT LEA.

**Village Powers Delegated to the Supervisors—Conflict Over Incorporation—Bill Passes Legislature—Accepted by People of Albert Lea—Officers from Year to Year—Story of the City Charter.**

Until May 11, 1858, the towns of Freeborn county had no local government. On that date the citizens of Albert Lea township perfected a town government and Dr. A. C. Wedge was elected chairman of the board of supervisors. With the growth of the village, problems presented themselves which could not well be met by the powers conferred by general statute upon town supervisors. According in 1870 a special act was passed by the legislature, giving to the supervisors of the town of Albert Lea certain powers which were necessary to the conduct of village affairs. This act was amplified and amended by several subsequent legislatures.

It became more and more apparent, however, that the time would soon be ripe for the installation of the village government separate from the township. As the matter reached a head, the usual arguments pro and con were heard. Formal debates were held, the press took the matter up and there was much bitter feeling on both sides. The question of taxation naturally entered largely into the arguments. The saloon question was also a vital influence, the community at that time being divided into the saloon and the anti-saloon elements. While these matters were being discussed a committee of villagers, consisting of C. W. Ballard, D. R. P. Hibbs, Ira A. Towne, M. Halvorsen, A. M. Tyrer and E. C. Stacy drew up a bill secretly, which was presented to the legislature in the spring of 1878, and after a bitter fight passed that body.

The regular town election was to be held the second Tuesday in March. This was really a preliminary skirmish to the battle which was to follow. An all-farmer ticket which received the support of those in the country districts and several skillful politicians in the village, gave diversity to the election, but was defeated. At this election, however, the leaders on both sides were able to feel the pulse of public sentiment.

C. W. Ballard took charge of a house to house canvass, and decided that the incorporation act would pass by 70 majority.



The election was held at the courthouse the first Monday in April, 1878, in charge of A. C. Wedge, B. H. Skaug and A. E. Johnson. The charter passed by a majority of 72.

The first election of officers under this act was held the second Monday in May, 1878. The people in the first ward voted at the office of W. P. Sergeant, on Broadway; the people of the second ward at the old Webber house, corner of Broadway and Main, and the people of the third ward, at the courthouse. The judges of the election in the first ward were William P. Sergeant, William Hazelton and P. T. Scotland; of the second ward, H. Hanson, A. Carlson and J. W. Smith; of the third ward, C. R. Ransom, John H. Anderson and August Peterson.

**1878.** The wheels of city government started with the following officers: Mayor, Francis Hall; aldermen—1, W. P. Sergeant (president), J. W. Smith; 2, A. E. Johnson; Ellend Erickson; 3, John Anderson; E. D. Porter; clerk, Fred S. Lincoln; attorney, John Anderson; assessor, D. N. Gates; street commissioner, Joseph France; day police, E. D. Patrick; night police, D. K. Stacy and T. L. Torgerson; justices, Ira A. Towne, E. C. Stacy; treasurer, H. A. Hanson; surveyor, H. D. Brown.

**1879.** The officers this year were: Mayor, H. D. Brown; aldermen—1, W. P. Sergeant (president), J. W. Smith; 2, T. H. Armstrong, Ellend Erickson; 3, William Fenholt, John A. Anderson; treasurer, H. A. Hanson; attorney, R. M. Palmer; assessor, D. N. Gates; street commissioner, E. D. Porter; chief of police, Reuben Williams; surveyor, William Morin; justice, E. C. Stacy. In September, Ed Patrick became chief of police. The council took several measures toward protecting the city from fire. Lots were rented, a temporary building was erected, hooks, ladders and pails were purchased, and several cisterns and reservoirs were put in at various points. In the summer a La France fire engine was purchased, and an engine house was erected on block 30, on Main street, the lots being presented by William Morin and T. H. Armstrong. The engine house was ready for occupancy in January, 1880.

**1880.** At the election this year R. C. Van Vechten was chosen mayor. The new aldermen were: O. F. Nelson, William Morin and J. A. Anderson. E. C. Stacy and H. O. Haukness were the justices, and B. H. Skaug was treasurer. William Morin was named as president of the council and the following appointments were made: Clerk, John Anderson; assessor, W. A. Higgins; chief of police, Ed. Patrick; engineer, A. Motzfeldt. March 15, J. H. Parker was appointed attorney for the balance of the year. The council this year was much occupied with the question of Spring lake. From a beautiful sheet of water it had become a dumping ground and stagnant pool. Physicians pronounced it



a menace to public health and it was deeded to the city as a park by William Morin and wife, Clarence Wedge and wife, and Mrs. Mary F. Armstrong. In December the lake was ordered drained.

**1881.** The new government was organized May 3, with the following officers: Mayor, Francis Hall; treasurer, B. H. Skaugh; aldermen—1, O. F. Nelson; W. P. Sergeant; 2, Thomas H. Armstrong, William Morin; 3, William Fenholt, John A. Anderson; clerk, John Anderson. John A. Anderson was made president and the following appointments were made: Assessor, Aug. Peterson; attorney, J. H. Parker; chief of police, W. C. Mitchell. The Spring lake matter was again considered. A petition was received protesting against its being drained. August 23, Dr. Charles Hewitt, the state health officer, declared the lake to be a menace to public health. A plat of the proposed drain and park was presented and placed on file.

**1882.** The election of May 4, this year, resulted as follows: Mayor, C. W. Ballard; city treasurer, N. O. Narveson; city justices, H. O. Haukness and E. C. Stacy; aldermen—first ward, Martin Olson; second ward, William Morin; third ward, John Thompson. T. H. Armstrong, Sergeant and Fenholt held over. An effort was made to have John A. Anderson sit on this council as president, it being alleged that though his office as alderman had expired, he nevertheless held over as president of the council until his successor to that position should be elected. At the first meeting of the council no chairman was elected, the vote on this subject being a tie. This was the famous “dead lock” year. There was considerable bitter feeling and the council was evenly divided on all questions, so that neither faction would consent to one of its numbers being deprived of a vote by being appointed president of the council. The matter was not settled for several months. Finally after many deadlocks and much bitter feeling Alderman Thompson was elected president, December 5. Alderman Sergeant resigned in November, and D. R. P. Hibbs took his place. February 6, 1883, George Drommerhausen was regularly elected alderman from the first ward. August Peterson was assessor this year and John Anderson was clerk.

**1883.** Francis Hall was elected mayor, and N. O. Narveson, treasurer. The three aldermen elected were: 1, George Drommerhausen; 2, John G. Brundin; 3, V. Gulbrandson. William Morin was elected president of the council and other officers were: City clerk, D. W. Dwyer; attorney, W. E. Todd; chief of police, William Mitchell; street commissioner, M. M. Luce. May 6, a petition was filed asking for a telephone franchise.

**1884.** Francis Hall continued as mayor and N. O. Narveson as assessor. The new aldermen elected were: 1, Martin Olson;



2. William Morin; 3. John Thompson. William Morin became president of the council. The other officers were: Justices, E. C. Stacy, John Anderson; clerk, D. W. Dwyer; attorney, W. E. Todd; street commissioner, M. M. Luce; chief of police, H. S. Grandy.

**1885.** Dr. A. C. Wedge was elected mayor, N. O. Narveson, treasurer; George Drommerhausen, alderman from the first ward; A. H. Squier, alderman from the second ward; and Vegger Gulbrandson, alderman from the third ward. William Morin was appointed president; D. W. Dwyer, clerk; August Peterson, assessor. The respective merits of gas and electric street lighting were considered this year. The council decided to construct some cells for prison purposes in the rear of the engine house, and also to add a story to that edifice for assembly purposes. A. G. Wedge succeeded John Anderson as justice, and he was followed in turn by J. H. Parker.

**1886.** Francis Hall was elected mayor. The aldermen elected were: 1, T. V. Knatvold; 2, William Morin; 3, G. Q. Slocum. A. H. Squier was president of the council. Other officers were: D. W. Dwyer, clerk; W. C. McAdam, attorney; A. G. Brundin, treasurer; Frank Merchant, chief of police; David Colvin, street commissioner; J. Q. Annis, assessor; W. A. Morin, surveyor; justices, E. C. Stacy and J. B. Foote. Charles H. Farnsworth was given a franchise to erect poles and to string wires for an electric light system, providing the system should be in operation by September 15, 1886. October 19, a committee was appointed to contract with C. H. Farnsworth for the installation of six street lights of 1,200 candle power. November 1, a few lights were in operation, and December 6, the system was fully inaugurated. R. C. Van Vechten was appointed alderman to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William Morin, and J. H. Parker was appointed justice in place of J. B. Foote.

**1887.** C. M. Wilkinson was elected mayor; A. G. Brundin, treasurer; J. H. Parker, justice, and D. G. Parker, L. J. Thomas, W. A. Morin, V. Gulbrandson and L. D. Smith were aldermen. Parker, Slocum and Smith served as presidents of the council. F. Merchant was chief of police; H. A. Morgan, city attorney; J. Q. Annis, assessor; F. A. Johnson, clerk; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner, and H. H. Wilcox, city physician.

**1888.** C. M. Wilkinson was elected mayor; E. C. Stacy and H. O. Haukness, justices; alderman-at-large, R. C. Van Vechten; 1, T. V. Knatvold; 2, W. A. Morin; 3, G. Q. Slocum. F. A. Johnson was clerk; Henry A. Morgan, attorney; Harry Lukins, street commissioner; J. Q. Annis, assessor; Frank Merchant, chief of police. Upon the removal of R. C. Van Vechten, L. J. Thomas became president of the council.



**1889.** C. M. Wilkinson was elected mayor. The treasurer was A. G. Brundin and the aldermen elected were: Alderman-at-large, H. A. Hanson; 1, T. E. Richards; 2, A. Wiegand; 3, W. H. Lowe. H. A. Hanson was president of the council; F. A. Johnson, clerk; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner; V. Gillrup, assessor; W. S. Carey, chief of police. C. A. Briggs succeeded F. A. Johnson as clerk. J. B. Foote succeeded H. O. Haukness as justice. July 22, 1889, the council decided to adopt a gasoline system of street lighting. October 21 the electric street lights were ordered removed.

**1890.** D. N. Gates was elected mayor; alderman-at-large, H. A. Hanson; 1, C. N. Ruble; 2, W. A. Morin; 3, C. W. Ransom; E. C. Stacy and J. B. Foote, justices; Thomas M. Blacklin was treasurer; Charles A. Briggs, clerk; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner; William N. Crane, attorney; G. Q. Slocum, assessor; W. S. Carey, chief of police; H. A. Hanson was president of the council.

**1891.** H. H. Wilcox was elected mayor. The aldermen elected were: Alderman-at-large, C. M. Wilkinson; 1, T. E. Richards; 2, Adam Wiegand; 3, W. H. Lowe. C. M. Wilkinson was president of the council, and other officers were: C. E. Brainerd, treasurer; C. A. Briggs, clerk; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner; E. C. Stacy and J. B. Foote, justices; William N. Crane, attorney; C. M. Hewitt, assessor; W. S. Carey, chief of police. November 5, 1891, a new water works system was in full operation.

**1892.** W. G. Kellar was elected mayor, and the new aldermen were: Alderman-at-large, C. M. Wilkinson; 1, George A. Boye; 2, A. G. Brundin; 3, C. W. Ransom. C. M. Wilkinson was president of the council, and other officers were: John Stadheim, treasurer; Heman Blackmer and E. C. Stacy, justices; C. A. Briggs, clerk; William N. Crane, attorney; C. M. Hewitt, assessor; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner; W. A. Morin, surveyor; W. S. Carey, chief of police; W. S. Lockwood, superintendent of water works. A new plan for draining Spring lake was accepted and placed on file.

**1893.** T. V. Knatvold was elected mayor and the new aldermen were: Alderman-at-large, C. M. Wilkinson; 1, T. E. Richards; 2, A. Wiegand; 3, W. H. Lowe. C. M. Wilkinson was president of the council, and the other officers were: Fred S. Hayes, treasurer; C. A. Briggs, clerk; John Anderson, attorney; C. M. Hewitt, assessor; W. A. Morin, surveyor; S. F. Chamberlain, chief of police; C. D. Marlett, street commissioner. Some repairs were made on the engine house and a bell tower added. December 20 a telephone permit was granted F. B. Fobes. The council declared itself in favor of free text books.

**1894.** T. V. Knatvold was elected mayor and the new alder-



men were: Alderman-at-large, C. M. Wilkinson; 1, V. Gillrup; 2, A. G. Brundin; 3, A. M. Gilbert. C. M. Wilkinson was president of the council and the other officers were: A. S. Hayes, treasurer; R. S. Clements, clerk; George A. Boye, street commissioner; W. A. Morin, surveyor; E. C. Stacy and E. A. Church, justices; C. D. Marlett, chief of police; John Anderson, attorney; M. M. Luce, superintendent and engineer of water works; Sylvester Messinger, assessor.

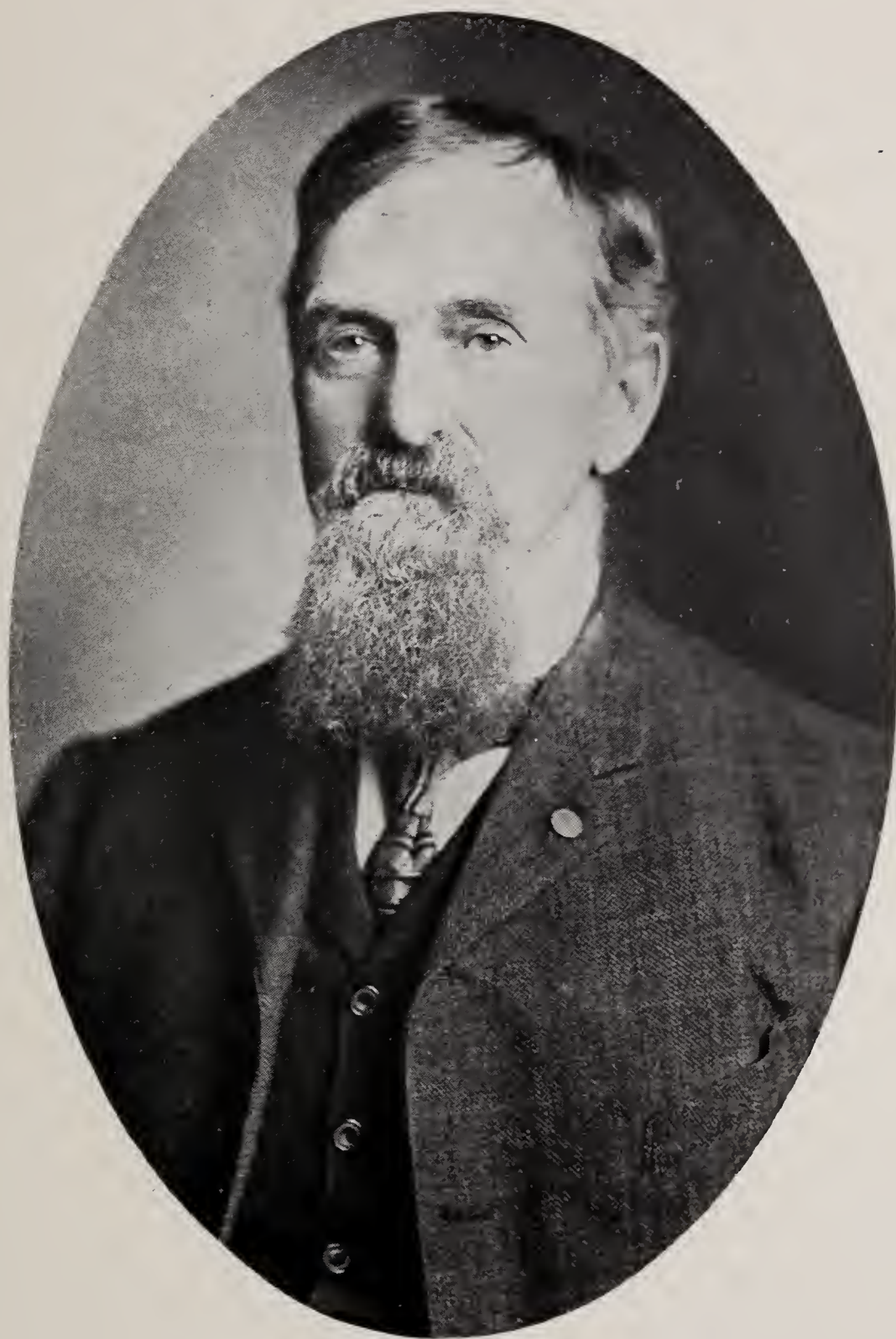
**1895.** Victor Gillrup being elected mayor, his place as alderman from the first ward was taken by R. B. Skinner. The newly elected aldermen were: Alderman-at-large, Charles Jorgenson; 1, William S. Krebs; 2, W. A. Morin; 3, V. Gulbrandson. Charles Jorgenson was president of the council and the other officers were: A. S. Hayes, treasurer; Charles A. Briggs, clerk; C. S. Edwards, attorney; E. E. Remington, surveyor; F. M. Church, street commissioner; A. E. Ransom, chief of police; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works; C. M. Hewitt, assessor. June 24 a contract was let for draining Spring lake, the work being completed in August.

**1896.** C. M. Wilkinson was elected mayor and the newly elected aldermen were: Charles Jorgenson, alderman-at-large; 1, R. B. Skinner; 2, A. G. Brundin; 3, A. M. Gilbert. Charles Jorgenson was president of the council and the other officers were: B. H. Knatvold, treasurer; E. C. Stacy and G. W. Hopkins, justices; C. A. Briggs, clerk; C. S. Edwards, attorney; F. M. Church, street commissioner; C. M. Hewitt, assessor; S. F. Chamberlain, chief of police; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. The city voted no license this year. In spite of this fact, five saloonkeepers applied to the city council for licenses, but no action was taken in the matter.

**1897.** Charles M. Wilkinson was elected mayor and the newly elected aldermen were: Charles Jorgenson, alderman-at-large; 1, Simon Strauss; 2, W. A. Morin; 3, Henry G. Wohlhuter. Charles Jorgenson was president of the council and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; J. R. Halverson, clerk; C. S. Edwards, attorney; F. H. Fisk, surveyor; S. F. Chamberlain, chief of police; A. Wiegand, assessor; F. M. Church, street commissioner; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. The sewer system was installed this year and various telephone franchises granted. The city was "no license" this year.

**1898.** C. M. Wilkinson was elected mayor and the newly elected aldermen were: W. S. Jones, alderman-at-large; 1, J. W. Veness; 2, A. C. Sorenson; 3, Alf. Anderson. W. A. Morin was president of the council and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; D. K. Stacy and R. S. Clements, justices; J. R. Halvorsen, clerk; C. S. Edwards, attorney; F. H. Fisk,





J. Q. ANNIS





surveyor; Emil Nelson, assessor; W. H. Lowe, street commissioner; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. The sewer system was extended and the water works equipment improved. Rolla Farnsworth took the place of C. S. Edwards as attorney. J. Q. Annis took the place of Alf. Anderson, as alderman. E. S. Hammond took the place of R. S. Clements as justice. The city returned to license this year.

**1899.** T. W. Wilson was mayor, and the newly elected aldermen were: E. W. Knatvold, alderman-at-large; 1, James C. Jensen; 2, W. A. Morin; 3, J. Q. Annis. E. W. Knatvold was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; E. S. Hammond, justice; C. S. Edwards, attorney; J. R. Halvorsen, clerk; W. H. Lowe, street commissioner; Emil Nelson, assessor; F. H. Fisk, surveyor; J. J. Sullivan, chief of police; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. A new city hall was proposed this year. Charles Jorgensen took the place of E. W. Knatvold as alderman. The city voted no license this year.

**1900.** H. H. Dunn was mayor. The newly elected aldermen were: P. C. Johnson, alderman-at-large; 1, T. J. Wanek; 2, A. C. Sorenson; 3, P. C. Jensen. P. C. Johnson was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; D. K. Stacy and E. S. Hammond, justices; Charles E. Brainerd, clerk; A. U. Mayland, attorney; W. H. English, street commissioner; G. M. Wilcox, surveyor; James J. Sullivan, chief of police; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. W. S. Jones took the place of A. C. Sorenson as alderman.

**1901.** H. H. Dunn was elected mayor, and the newly elected aldermen were: Augustus Armstrong, alderman-at-large; 1, James C. Jensen; 2, C. L. Swenson; 3, W. Wohlhuter. Augustus Armstrong was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; C. S. Edwards, attorney; F. H. Fisk, surveyor; Emil Nelson, assessor; W. H. English, street commissioner; C. E. Brainerd, clerk; Edward Carey, chief of police; M. M. Luce, superintendent of water works. The building of a new city hall was again seriously considered, and it was also voted to continue the filling of Spring lake park. A vote was passed encouraging Frank Moore Jeffery in the establishment of a gas plant.

**1902.** Henry A. Morgan was elected mayor, and the newly elected aldermen were: E. W. Knatvold, alderman-at-large; 1, S. G. Thompson; 2, A. Wiegand; 3, P. C. Jensen. E. W. Knatvold was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; D. K. Stacy and E. S. Hammond, justices; C. E. Brainerd, clerk; J. G. Skinner, attorney; J. D. Clarke, street commissioner; Emil Nelson, assessor; William



Barneck, surveyor; Edward Carey, chief of police; W. L. Beedle, superintendent of water works. A contract was let for the building of a city hall, fire station, engine house, city prison and city offices combined, on North Broadway.

**1903.** E. W. Knatvold was elected mayor, and the new aldermen were: at large, C. L. Swenson, M. M. Jones, W. A. Morin and T. E. Schlender; 1, D. C. Armstrong; 2, Adam Wiegand; 3, Chris. Anderson. C. L. Swenson was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; C. E. Brainerd, clerk; Claude E. Southwick, attorney; D. K. Stacy and E. S. Hammond, justices; Emil Nelson, assessor; W. H. English, street commissioner; Edward Carey, chief of police; W. L. Beedle, superintendent of water works; William Barneck, engineer. Various matters in connection with the laying of the gas mains were considered. The new city hall was completed in November, 1903.

**1905.** L. O. Greene was elected mayor, and the aldermen elected were: at large, C. L. Swenson, M. M. Jones, N. P. Sorenson and C. R. Brundin. 1, H. E. Skinner; 2, A. C. Sorenson; 3, J. A. Gustaveson. C. L. Swenson was president of the council, and the other officers were: C. B. Kellar, treasurer; C. E. Brainerd, clerk; C. E. Southwick, attorney; J. Q. Annis, assessor; E. S. Hammond and D. K. Stacy, Justices; E. V. Spoon, street commissioner; Edward Carey, chief of police. H. C. Higgins became clerk in place of C. E. Brainerd, November 16, 1906. February 7, 1907, the city signed a five-year street lighting contract with the Albert Lea Light and Power Company.

**1907.** The officers this year were: C. L. Swenson, mayor; N. P. Sorenson, alderman-at-large; 1, M. M. Jones, H. E. Skinner; 2, A. C. Sorenson, Robert Anderson; 3, John A. Gustaveson, John F. Hanson; C. B. Kellar, treasurer; Charles J. Dudley, clerk; C. E. Southwick, attorney; J. Q. Annis, assessor; E. S. Hammond, D. K. Stacy, justices; Patrick Dolan, street commissioner; T. L. Jones, chief of police; W. L. Beedle, superintendent of water works; William Barneck, engineer. M. M. Jones was president of the council. Henry J. Harm became alderman-at-large October 14, 1907, to fill the place of N. P. Sorenson.

**1909.** The officers this year were: L. O. Greene, mayor; Henry J. Harm, alderman-at-large; 1, M. M. Jones, N. C. Sorenson; 2, Robert Anderson, William Nelson; 3, J. A. Gustaveson, J. J. Verkvam; C. B. Kellar, treasurer; Charles J. Dudley, clerk; T. V. Knatvold, attorney; J. Q. Annis, assessor; E. S. Hammond, D. K. Stacy, justices; Patrick Dolan, street commissioner; Edward Carey, chief of police; W. L. Beedle, superintendent of water works; William Barneck, engineer; M. M. Jones president of the council. The first street paving in Albert Lea was done



during this administration and has continued to the present time. November 13, 1909, J. A. Gustaveson resigned as alderman and John Hanson took his place. August 31, 1910, Robert Anderson resigned from the council and his place was taken by A. C. Sorenson.

**1911.** The officers this year are: C. L. Swenson, mayor; Henry J. Harm, alderman-at-large; 1, N. C. Sorenson, Martin Blacklin; 2, William Nelson, Henry Soth; 3, G. A. Clausen, J. J. Berkvam; C. B. Kellar, treasurer; Charles J. Dudley, clerk; J. O. Peterson, attorney; J. Q. Annis, assessor; Christ Hanson, street commissioner; E. S. Hammond, D. K. Stacy, justices; Peter Fösse, chief of police; W. L. Beedle, superintendent of water works; William Barneck, city engineer; A. F. Wohlhuter, chief of fire department; James T. Swenson, weighmaster; "The Evening Tribune," official paper; board of health, Dr. W. A. Bessensen, Alexander McKee and Charles Jorgensen. Henry J. Harm is president of the council.

**The Charter.** The original charter of the city of Albert Lea passed the legislature March 11, 1878, and was accepted by the people the first Monday in April of the same year. The boundaries of the new city were to be as follows: The southeast quarter of section 8; all that part of the northeast quarter of section 8 lying south of Fountain lake; all that part of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8 lying south of Fountain lake and east half of southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8; the southwest quarter of section 9; the south half of the northwest quarter of section 9; the north half of the northwest quarter of section 16; the north half of the northeast quarter of section 17; all in township 102, range 21.

After the first election the elections were to be held the first Monday in May. The term of the mayor was fixed at one year; the treasurer at one year, and the two justices at two years. Six aldermen were to be elected, two from each of the three wards. Three of these aldermen were to serve for one year and three for two years. After the first election each ward was to elect one alderman every year, each alderman to serve for two years. Other officers were to be appointed by the council. Various minor changes were subsequently made and in 1885 the boundaries were changed.

February 19, 1887, various important changes were made. The boundaries were again altered and election day was designated as the first Tuesday in April. An alderman-at-large to be elected each year and to serve for one year was added to the city council.

April 8, 1889, the legislature passed a new charter, reducing,



consolidating and amending the previous charter and amendments. This charter was the work of Henry A. Morgan, then county attorney. The elective officers of the city were to be the same as under the previous charter. A new feature was the creating of a board of public works, but this provision was afterward repealed.

November 8, 1898, the people of the state accepted the constitutional amendment abolishing special legislation, and the amendment was proclaimed by the governor December 29, 1898. In 1899 the state legislature passed an act called Chapter 251 of the General Laws of 1899. This act provided for the appointment by the various district judges of a charter commission for such cities in their districts as were already incorporated and for such villages as desired to incorporate; these commissioners to have charge of framing charters and charter amendments in the cities or villages wherein they served.

Under this act Judge Nathan Kingsley appointed fifteen men to serve as the charter commission of Albert Lea. They were A. C. Wedge (president), Clement S. Edwards (secretary), Henry A. Morgan, D. R. P. Hibbs, S. Strauss, I. L. Ingebritsen, H. G. Wohlhuter, Henry C. Carlson, H. G. Day, O. J. Wulff, J. H. Meneffee, Ray C. Blackmer, T. V. Knatvold, C. W. Ransom and William A. Morin. The charter prepared by this commission was ratified by more than the necessary four-sevenths of the voters, April 1, 1902, and with the exception of certain amendments, the city is still operating under this instrument.

This charter provided for a two-year term for each elective officer. Each ward was to have one alderman and four were to be elected at large. The other elective officers were to be mayor, city treasurer, street commissioner, city attorney, assessor, city clerk and two justices of the peace. In 1906 the charter was amended so that two aldermen are now elected from each ward and one at large.

In 1908 further important amendments to the charter were made, but their import is beyond the scope of this history. At this time two vacancies had occurred in the commission and George Drommerhausen and Vegger Gulbrandson had taken the place of H. G. Wohlhuter and Ray C. Blackmer.

The present charter commission consists of C. S. Edwards, H. A. Morgan, D. R. P. Hibbs, H. C. Carlson and William Wohlhuter, first ward; O. J. Wulff, J. H. Meneffee, S. P. Swenson, W. S. Jones and A. C. Sorenson, second ward; Vegger Gulbrandson, A. U. Mayland, George Drommerhausen, C. W. Ransom and Chris Berthelson, third ward.

The present boundaries of Albert Lea are described as follows: The north half of section 16; the northeast quarter and



the east half of the northwest quarter of section 17; the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter of section 9; the northeast quarter, the northwest quarter, the southeast quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 8; the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 5; also the following, to-wit: Commencing at a point on the section line between sections 5 and 6, twenty rods north of the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 6, and running thence west twenty rods, thence southeasterly to the northwest corner of the south half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 5; thence east to the center of the upper Shell Rock river; thence northwesterly along the center of said river until it strikes the west line of said section 5, thence south along said section line to the place of beginning, all in township 102, range 21.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### MODERN ALBERT LEA.

**Advantages of Albert Lea as a Place of Residence—Parks—Street Paving—Street Lighting—Water Works—Sewers—Telephones—Fire Department—City Hall and Engine House—Carnegie Library—City and County Hospital—Business Men's League—Cemeteries—Written by Joseph P. Hurley.**

Albert Lea, destined without doubt to be the metropolis of southern Minnesota, is situated in the center of Freeborn county, noted for its extensive dairy and diversified farming interests. With broad, well-paved business streets, modern, well-kept business houses, handsome, attractive residences and a background of lakes, meadow and woodland, it at once combines the progressive commercial center with all the attractions usually offered by the most delightful summer resorts. With boating, fishing, hunting at its very doors, the visitor may find all the delights of woodland, lake and stream, without any of the discomforts usually met with in seeking sylvan pleasures. Located as it is, on a table land between Albert Lea and Fountain lakes, three-fourths of its borders are on these lakes, the high, irregular banks making possible the locating of avenues, boulevards and streets in such a way that the homes situated thereon add to rather than detract from the natural beauties of the scenery as Mother Nature painted it.

Broadway, the principal business street, is 100 feet wide, and runs north and south, extending from the shore of Fountain lake to the southern limits of the city. Parallel with Broadway on the west is Washington street, on the east Newton street, and intersecting are Water, Clark, William, Main, College and Pearl streets, within this territory being located nearly all the business houses. Scattering from this center are the various large and small industries which help to produce the wealth and extend the fair name of our city throughout the country.

The railroad facilities are unsurpassed, there being five lines of railroads, radiating in ten directions, being second only to the Twin Cities in this respect. Four of the five have division headquarters here, and on this solid foundation rests the present prosperity and future prospects of the city.

Both in religious and educational institutions, Albert Lea is unexcelled by any city of its size in the United States. The public school buildings comprise the central group, including the high school building, which represents an investment of \$150,000, and





JOSEPH P. HURLEY





two ward school buildings which bring the grand total to over \$200,000. For higher education there is Albert Lea College for Women, Luther Academy, the latter a Lutheran preparatory college, and the new Catholic parochial school in charge of the devout sisters of that church. The Albert Lea Business College and National Business College, both thriving commercial schools, provide facilities for commercial training.

Poets may sing the legendary stories of the cities of the old world and painters depict the beauties of earth and sky, but if all the stories and pictures of the most talented geniuses of the past were rolled into one, the result would not provide a place on earth where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness may be more nearly realized than in beautiful, romantic, fascinating Albert Lea.

According to the federal census of 1910, Albert Lea has a population of 6,192, but this is not a fair indication of the actual population, as North Albert Lea, just outside the corporate limits, has a population of about 700, and there are a large number of homes in Edgewater and other suburban additions outside of the limits. Without doubt the population of the city at the present time is 7,500.

The postoffice and village of Albert Lea received their name in the summer of 1855. One evening, George S. Ruble, Joseph Wilford and Lorenzo Merry met by chance in a tent on Ruble's property and decided to name the settlement after the lake. The postoffice for a time was known as "Lake Albert Lea." In the earliest days the settlement here was commonly known as "Ruble's," and was usually thus designated by travelers.

**Parks**—While enjoying all the material advantages of most cities, Albert Lea is well supplied with breathing spots for the grown-up citizens and playgrounds for the youngsters.

**City Park**, which was given to the city by Lorenzo Merry and was platted with the village in 1856, is located two blocks west of Broadway, between Clark and Water streets. It is one city block in size, lying in front of the central school buildings, and provides a delightful playground for the children and a resting place in the warm summer days. Here are given the band concerts and other public gatherings are held. Its beautiful lawn and handsome floral decorations, which are provided and cared for by the park board, make it a most delightful place to spend a few minutes or as many hours.

**Spring Lake Park**, also located within three blocks of Broadway, is a striking example of the changes that come with the growth and development of a city. When the first settlers came here, they found a lake located where Spring Lake Park is now platted, extending, however, somewhat beyond the limits of the present park. This was a beautiful sheet of water and was used



extensively for watering stock. It was given the name of Merry's Little Lake. There are still living pioneers who as boys went in swimming on what is now Main street, west of Washington. This lake continued to exist for many years. Its name was changed to Morin's lake, and in time became known as Spring lake. Its waters were eventually drained into Fountain lake, and aside from the park, the electric light plant, a blacksmith shop and many residences occupy its site. The area of the park was deeded to the city in 1880 by William Morin, Clarence Wedge and Mary F. Armstrong. A great sewer emptying into Lake Albert Lea gives drainage to the original depression and the site of the park is filled in. The park is still in the progress of development, but in a short time will be seeded and beautified with flowers and foliage, if the present plans of the park board are carried out as speedily as anticipated.

**Frank Hall Park**, located southeast of the city and overlooking beautiful Albert Lea lake, was donated to the city by the well-known pioneer citizen of Albert Lea. Little has been done to add to its natural beauties, although citizens of that part of the city and the park board have great and glorious plans for the future. Some filling has been done, but it will require considerable time and money to make it into a desirable playground for the people.

**Armstrong Park**, a small triangular piece of ground between Fountain, Grove and West streets, was donated by Augustus Armstrong. While small, it adds a share to the beauty of that most delightful residence section and will be particularly useful since the City and County Hospital has been located just to the west of it.

**Lake Drive.** Supplementing and completing, as it were, the park system, there is a beautiful drive, extending from Fountain street, south and west of Fountain lake, along the shores of that lake for five miles. Running along the bank of the lake to Hatch bridge, it follows the shore line of the lake in its winding course, along the high banks of Bancroft creek, crosses the creek and continues east and south to the dam between Fountain and Albert Lea lakes, joining Bridge street at that point. It is one of the most delightful, picturesque and charming drives to be found anywhere in the country, and with the additions and improvements which are bound to come with the growth and development of the city, is destined one day to be as well known and famous as some of those we hear so much about at present. It was completed in 1880, and to Augustus Armstrong, more than to any other individual, is due the credit for creating it.

**Paving.** The first paving was done in Albert Lea in the summer of 1908. One block of the alley between William and Main streets was laid with brick. For several years the question had



been agitated, but in the absence of petitions from property owners the city council refused to order paving put in. In 1908 a majority of the property owners on Broadway for the three blocks between Clark and College streets, and the block on Clark street between Broadway and Washington, petitioned the city council to put in paving. After investigating the merits of the various paving materials, the council passed an ordinance calling for bids for paving those streets with either brick or creosote wood blocks. After considerable discussion pro and con the council finally let the contract for creosote block paving to Fielding & Shepley, of St. Paul. When this was completed and put in use the advantage of well-paved streets appealed strongly to most of the property owners in the business section, and in 1910 another contract was awarded to the same firm for the same material, which brought the total number of blocks of paving up to twenty-three. The same year several blocks of brick paving were put in the alleys in the business section. In 1911 a contract was again awarded to Fielding & Shepley for sufficient paving to bring the grand total up to fifty blocks, with eleven blocks of brick paving in the alleys. Creosote block was used in all the work on the streets, except on the steep grades, where sandstone was placed. In three years, or at the close of the building season of 1911, practically the entire business section has been paved, and the citizens generally are so well pleased with paved streets that there is little question but that the next two or three years will see practically all the better residence sections with paved streets.

**Street Lighting.** Charles H. Farnsworth was given an electric light franchise in 1886. November 1 a few lights were strung and the switch was turned by Hon. John A. Lovely. The system was in full operation December 6, 1886. C. G. Edwards became Farnsworth's partner and the firm became Farnsworth & Edwards. The service was not satisfactory, and on July 22, 1889, the council decided to adopt a system of gasoline street lighting, and October 21, 1889, ordered the street lights removed. The gasoline system was then used until November 19, 1895, when the streets were again illuminated by electricity, a contract having been let to the Albert Lea Electric Light Co. The Albert Lea Electric Light Co. was organized to succeed Farnsworth & Edwards, July 1, 1893. The officers of the new company were C. G. Edwards, S. S. Edwards, S. H. Cady, Harry Jones and W. E. Todd. The capital stock was placed at \$35,000, of which \$25,000 was paid in. Various attempts at municipal ownership of the electric light plant have been made. In 1889 it was proposed that the city buy the Farnsworth & Edwards plant. The same year an ordinance was passed authorizing the city to contract for a municipal electric light system, but the contract



was never signed. In the early nineties a tax levy of \$3,000 was made for a municipal electric light system, but after considerable agitation and discussion, the movement for a municipal plant lagged and died out entirely. A majority of people still clung to the hope that competition in the lighting business would compel the company to give better service and lower rates, so in 1901, when Frank Moore Jeffery came here and proposed to install a gas-making plant, he was received with open arms. Public meetings were held and his proposition for a franchise was endorsed. Conforming to what seemed the strong demand of the people, the city council granted him a franchise which practically covered the city. Shortly after this Jeffery disposed of his interests to the older company, and both electric and gas-lighting systems were consolidated, the Albert Lea Light & Power Co. being organized to take them over. Since that time both plants have been greatly improved, and while the service has been good and the company has once voluntarily reduced the price of electricity during the past ten years, many citizens still think the rates higher than they should be. This sentiment has lain dormant for the past few years, and the people seem to have settled down to the acceptance of the rates now charged as the lowest that can be secured at present. The present curb lighting of the business streets was installed in 1907, under a five-year contract signed by the city council on February 7 of that year. While it costs more than the old arc system, the beauty and attractiveness of it has carried the name and fame of Albert Lea to every corner of the country. On Broadway there is a standard with a cluster of three incandescent lights, under large white globes, six to a block, while on Main street, between the two principal railroad depots as well as the entire length of West College street, standards with a single globe, six to the block, make these streets a rarely beautiful sight at night.

**Waterworks.** Many discussions finally saw fruit in the installation of a city waterworks plant, put in operation November 5, 1891. Previous to that time water for fire protection was secured from a number of cisterns located at various points about the city, with a number of wharfs located on the shores of Fountain lake, where the firemen could locate the fire engine in times of necessity. The supply for private use was secured from wells and the numerous flowing springs about the lake, some fifty or sixty in number. The pumping station was located on the shore of Fountain lake, near the head of Broadway, where the first well—eight inches in diameter and 660 feet deep—was dug. The original plant, the mains for which were mostly eight inches, extended from the pumping station to College street, thence to the water tower, located in the block bounded by Broadway, College, Newton and Main streets; west on College to the Gilbert house, thence to South



Pearl to the Southern Minnesota depot. From Broadway a main followed Clark to Adams, thence to College, thence to the Union depot. A main also led from Broadway one block west, thence to Fountain street. The usual hydrants were provided at frequent intervals. E. K. Sykes was the contractor, W. W. Curtiss drew the plans and D. F. Stacy was the local engineer. The council committee in charge of the original work was Adam Weigand, C. W. Ranson, W. A. Morin and C. M. Wilkinson. To keep pace with the growth of the city and supply the increasing demand for water, it was necessary nine years later to dig a second well—twelve inches in diameter and 448 feet deep—near the first one. With the two wells the supply has been ample and will take care of the growth of the city for some years to come. From time to time, as demand was made by the citizens, the water mains have been extended, until now the system covers practically every section within the corporate limits and totals eleven miles in extent. The capacity of the plant is 1,000,000 gallons per day. Several days during the past summer, when the weather was warm and dry, 700,000 gallons were pumped during twenty-four hours, while the average per day during the past year has been 450,000 gallons each twenty-four hours. The normal pressure is fifty pounds, and when a fire emergency demands, 100 pounds pressure can easily be reached. At present there are 900 patrons. The present superintendent, W. S. Beedle, has been in charge of the plant since 1902, and has proven himself a capable and competent manager.

**Sewers.** Although the first sewerage system was put in in the fall of 1897, for the next ten years practically nothing further was done until some three years ago. The original sewer was laid in the alleys behind the principal business streets and covered the territory embraced in the territory between Newton street on the east to the Minneapolis & St. Louis depot on the west, in the alleys on both sides of Broadway from Water to College streets, south to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, taking in a section on both sides of the latter and extending east to the outlet in Albert Lea lake. Three years ago a contract for a trunk sewer carrying both drainage and sanitary sections was let to Tanner Bros. of Minneapolis at a cost of \$30,763.75. This trunk sewer was necessary before the sewerage system could be further extended, as the capacity of the old trunk sewer was used with the section already covered. The new trunk sewer, which is 33x44, horseshoe shape, with a twelve-inch pipe for drainage, begins at the north side of Main street in the center of St. Mary, continues east of the Albert Lea Light & Power plant, south to College street. Here the sanitary sewer is enlarged to 36x48, continuing down Pearl, east on Pearl to Newton. At this point the sewer separates, the sanitary sewer continuing easterly to the lake. The



sanitary sewer passes east under the Rock Island tracks to a point just west of the Milwaukee bridge, where an inverted syphon silts the sewage two and one-half feet into a concrete sewer which runs 1300 feet to the outlet in Albert Lea lake. In order to get the proper fall the sewer at the point where it reaches the bridge was lower than the level of the lake, hence the necessity of the lift to raise it into the lake. With this trunk sewer completed the laterals are being rapidly extended to all parts of the city and within the next two or three years every part of the residence sections will be able to have connection with a good sewerage system. City Engineer William Barneck, who has planned and watched the construction of practically all of the work, estimates the cost of the sewers so far built at \$60,000 and that the system contemplated was only about one-fourth completed.

**Telephones.** An early telephone system was installed by Frank Fobes. On December 4, 1893, he applied to the city council for a franchise and on December 14, 1893, the council by resolution granted the franchise. It was very general in its terms and gave him the use of the streets throughout the city. During 1894 he installed the system, at an approximate cost of \$6,000. He continued in charge of the business until 1900, when his health failed and F. W. Barlow was appointed guardian for him by the Probate Court and took charge of the business. On January 17, 1901, he sold the business to Seward H. Cady for \$10,000. January 17, 1901, the Albert Lea Telephone Co. was organized with a capital of \$15,000, and on March 7 following Mr. Cady transferred the business to that company. This company gradually enlarged the plant, George W. Johnson being manager for the company, and while there was more or less complaint from the patrons on the service, there was no particular agitation of the subject until 1905, when the Tri-State Telephone Co. applied to the council for permission to enter the city and establish an exchange.

A year or so previous to this time the Northwestern Telephone Co. had purchased a controlling interest in the local company, and although the citizens generally were in the mood to welcome competition in the telephone business, the almost unanimous sentiment was to try to get both companies to combine in one exchange and thus avoid the double charge for a complete service. The Northwestern Company declined to enter into such an arrangement and the city council appeared determined to compel them to do so. An ordinance was passed by the council ordering the Northwestern Company to remove their poles and lines from certain streets which it was understood the original franchise did not cover, but before the city authorities could enforce it the telephone company secured first a temporary injunction and later a permanent one, forbidding the city authorities interfering with the present system.



The Northwestern Company, however, offered to improve and extend the service, and while a majority of the citizens desired that they be given an opportunity to do so, the city council and the mayor, defeated in their efforts to curb the old company, then granted the Tri-State the right to enter the city, under certain restrictions as to the price to be charged for telephones and providing for putting the wires underground in the business and certain parts of the residence section. While this competition brought a slight reduction in the charges—the old company charging \$2.50 per month for business phones and the rate the Tri-State could charge being limited to \$2.00—the users found that in order to get a complete service both telephones must be used.

Following the granting of the franchise to the Tri-State, that company promptly secured ground in the business section, erected a building and installed a complete local exchange. All the wires downtown and in most of the residence section were placed underground. Their business grew steadily until they now have a list of about 1280, including the farmers, who are directly connected with the local exchange. The total cost of the plant is approximately \$60,000. The Northwestern Company, from the necessity of meeting the competition of the new company, has improved and enlarged its plant, and although not having as large a list of local patrons, has the advantage of a more extensive long distance service. Its local plant represents about the same investment as the other company, or nearly \$60,000. With the total number of telephone users divided between the two companies, the telephone situation has settled down to a long distance contest, which will probably remain as it is until such time as one or the other succeeds in gaining a monopoly of the business throughout the country. The consensus of opinion seems to be that the telephone business is a natural monopoly, which, when properly regulated by law, will give patrons the cheapest and best service where one company occupies the field alone.

**Fire Department**—The first meeting of Engine Company No. 1 was called to order July 18, 1879, by Rev. J. R. Chambers. J. R. Richards was appointed secretary pro tem, and officers were elected as follows: Foreman, James Allen; assistant foreman, Anson Peck; foreman of hose, Charles Soth; assistant foreman of hose, J. J. Bond; treasurer, N. O. Narveson; secretary, J. R. Richards. A constitution was accepted July 26 of the same year and F. B. Fobes was elected chief. The department was then situated in the old city hall. The apparatus was meagre compared with the present modern equipment, but was then considered the best of its class. Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, was organized September 14, 1888, with E. H. Ellickson, foreman; H. I. Hanson, assistant foreman; S. O. Simonson, secretary, and P. A. Nel-



son, treasurer. The two companies were organized as a department the same day. W. P. Sergeant was elected chief of department. Since then the department has developed and expanded until in 1895 a Fire Relief Association was organized, with: President, Adam Wiegand; vice president, E. W. Knatvold; secretary, C. E. Brainerd; treasurer, H. Wohlhuter; board of trustees, Messrs. Simonson and Gunderson. In the fall of 1909 this association completed a splendid auditorium. It has also paid out adequate sums to injured members, though fortunately accidents have been few.

With the modern chemical apparatus that the company possess they can kill the better part of the fire without even turning on water. It is an established fact that Albert Lea has the most efficient fire department in the northwest for a city of its size. "Bill" Mitchell, former chief, was well known from the Atlantic to Alaska, and everywhere between, as a fire-fighter. He led the department for twenty years and brought it to a state of perfection. His sterling qualities as a man were fully exemplified as a fire-fighter. The department in his charge consisted of six men, with driver, always on duty, twenty active volunteers, who ran at the tap of the bell, and fifteen honorary members. The apparatus consisted of one combination chemical and hose wagon, one large hose wagon, one sixty-foot Segrave hook and ladder, one team with swinging harness and an electric fire alarm system.

Mr. Mitchell resigned in January, 1911, and on January 22 A. F. Wohlhuter was elected chief by the department, the city council confirming the election on January 27, 1911. The present officers and members of the department, together with the officers of the Relief Association, follow:

A. F. Wohlhuter, chief; H. Stotz, first assistant chief; H. Soth, second assistant chief; C. E. Brainerd, foreman; J. J. Sullivan, secretary; Oscar Subby, treasurer; W. C. Mitchell, J. B. Clayborne, C. W. Turnbull, Alf Larson, Ed Donahue, Theo. Nelson, W. E. Bickford, H. Behr, S. Severson, J. Smith, C. Mason, George Bettinger, N. C. Nelson, V. Stoop, Alex. Larson, Art Jensen, Al Jensen. The officers of the Relief Association are: A. F. Wohlhuter, president; J. J. Sullivan, vice president; C. E. Brainerd, secretary; H. Stotz, treasurer.

**City Hall and Engine House.** Soon after the city was organized a temporary tool shed was provided for city tools. An engine house was erected in the summer of 1879 on lots presented to the city by William Morin and Thomas H. Armstrong, the location being on Main street, west of Broadway. The engine house was ready for occupancy in January, 1880. In 1885 a story was added for assembly purposes and cells constructed in the rear. A bell tower was added in 1893. This building was used until December



23, 1903, when the present handsome brick and stone building, located on North Broadway, was ready for occupancy. It is a handsome three-story building, 44x123, of red sandstone and pressed brick, with St. Cloud granite columns, and cost, with the grounds on which it is located, a total of \$30,189.77. E. F. Warren was the architect, Baker & Baker the general contractors and Thomas Walsh superintended the construction.

The lower floor is occupied by the fire department team and equipment in front, the offices of the city engineer and chief of police, with the city jail in the rear. On the second floor is the office of the city clerk and the council chamber. The third floor is given over to the members of the fire department who are constantly on duty, and used for sleeping rooms, billiard hall, library, gymnasium and the like. In the rear is the municipal court room.

**Public Library.** In the spring of 1897 a few energetic and public-spirited women banded together and made plans for establishing a library. A time was set for a meeting, and all interested in the project were asked to be present. Those present at the first meeting were: Mesdames Olberg, Fuller, Day, Jacobus, Brainerd, Von Berg, Huntoon, Krebs, Dwight, Prentice, Strauss, Hibbs, R. B. Skinner, Jacobus, Hewitt and Merrill. Senator H. A. Morgan was asked to be present, to draw up the constitution and by-laws. Mrs. Olberg was chosen to preside, and officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Olberg, president; Mrs. Brainerd, secretary, and Mrs. Fuller, treasurer. The name of the association to be Albert Lea Library Association.

Any person paying a fee of one dollar a year could become a member and have the use of the books for that period. The first difficult question was, where should the library be located? The only available place at that time was a room in the Eaton house on the corner of Broadway and Water streets. This old house was one of the early structures erected in this city, and was in a very dilapidated condition. However, the association had it put in as good repair as possible, and placed the few books they had on shelves put up for the purpose. The rent for the room was six dollars per month. In May of 1897 the association opened its doors to the public, with Mrs. Wyman Greene as librarian. There were about fifty books on the shelves, and thirteen dollars in the treasury. A paper was circulated and about fifty names were added to the association the first week the library was opened, thus adding enough funds to enable them to send for more books. Bills seemed to accumulate faster than books or patrons, but just when things seemed most discouraging, something was done to help the cause along, so the library was not in debt any length of time. The first year was one of struggle; the next was not much brighter. Mrs. Greene served as librarian until November, 1897;



then she resigned. The place was filled for a few months by a teacher of the public schools, who would attend to the work, as the library was only open Saturday afternoon and evenings of each week. That same year the teacher gave up the work, and Clara Olberg took charge and served until the next spring, when she went abroad, and Mrs. Brainerd was prevailed upon to fill the vacancy.

The association continued to grow and reap good results, but not without strenuous efforts on the part of its active women members. In the spring of 1899 it was decided to turn the association's belongings over to the city, upon the agreement to levy a tax with which to support a free public library. Accordingly proper methods were taken and a public library was established. The first patron of the full public library was Mrs. Bouchard. In the fall of 1899 they moved into more commodious quarters, known as the Enterprise building. After moving into the new home the library was open two afternoons and two evenings each week. Mrs. Brainerd was appointed librarian and Nellie Levens assistant.

In the meantime, while the board was doing all possible to promote the growth of the library, C. L. Luce, H. G. Day and a few others had started a movement and petitioned Andrew Carnegie for money with which to erect a building. After waiting for many weeks, despairing of ever hearing from his agent, one day Mr. Luce received the good news that the required sum could be had by meeting certain conditions. The proposition was accepted by our board and the city council. The check came. These were busy days for the library board.

Within a year after the check came the building was ready to be occupied. In May, 1904, the library moved into the handsome new building which it now occupies at the corner of Washington and College streets.

An interesting side light on the history of the public library movement in Albert Lea has been given by the late D. R. P. Hibbs, under the heading "Recollections of Former Libraries." He gives the following account of the first attempt to found a library in Albert Lea, the articles of incorporation for which were filed March 27, 1873: "The incorporators were Frank Hall, Samuel Eaton, Charles Kittelson, D. G. Parker, J. H. Parker, J. W. Smith, S. Batchelder, T. C. Johnsrud, C. W. Levens, A. M. Tyrer, C. W. Ballard, Augustus Armstrong, H. D. Brown and F. B. Fobes. The officers were: Frank Hall, president; S. Batchelder, vice president; D. R. P. Hibbs, secretary; J. H. Parker, director. Pleasant rooms for this library were fitted up over the old postoffice, and after about a year, when interest lapsed and the library was closed, the financial account showed the receipt of







MR. AND MRS. THEODORE NAEVE







NAEVE HOSPITAL



\$466.19 and disbursements of \$450.88, leaving a balance of \$15.31, which, on the organization of the present association, was turned over to its treasurer. Among the valuable books secured were 108 volumes of the rebellion records, which with others to the total number of 176 volumes were by resolution turned over by Librarian J. C. Alling to the city school board, to be forever kept for the free use of the people of Albert Lea.

**Hospital.** Of all the public questions which the people of Albert Lea were called on to meet and solve, without doubt the securing of a properly equipped public hospital has been given the most attention. Such an institution is of first importance in every community, and for thirty years past different individuals tried to meet and solve the problem. In 1877 Dr. J. M. Todd, one of the best-known surgeons in the Northwest, opened a private hospital. Later on Dr. Frank Blackmer established a private hospital, as did also Dr. Henrick Nissen. While in a way these institutions provided for the most pressing needs of the community, none of them proved financially successful, and were abandoned. In 1896 the Albert Lea City Hospital Association was organized, which used the Dr. H. H. Wilcox home for hospital purposes. A short time later all the local physicians, with one or two exceptions, banded together and established a hospital in the building on St. Mary street, in the rear of Dr. J. P. von Berg's home. This did not prove a success, and after a short trial was abandoned. Then for a few years, and up to 1905, Albert Lea was without any hospital facilities, except such as were furnished by the individual doctors. In December, 1905, a meeting of citizens was called to consider the subject, and at a gathering in the city hall the City and County Hospital Association was organized. A Board of Directors, consisting of Messrs. W. A. Morin, E. W. Knatvold, John H. Griffin, George P. Lattin, H. C. Carlson, Rev. O. H. Smeby, L. P. Lawson, Geneva, and H. C. Nelson, Hayward, were selected. The board met later and elected W. A. Morin president, John H. Griffin secretary, and E. W. Knatvold treasurer. A plan was evolved by the board whereby the Dr. H. H. Wilcox home would be leased for a term of five years for use as a hospital, provided \$5,000 could be raised. It was estimated that \$1,000 above the usual income would be needed to operate the hospital. Committees were appointed and \$5,000 was raised.

During the first three years of the period for which the lease ran meetings were held and plans talked over for a large modern building, suitable to the needs of Albert Lea. Nothing definite came of this until Charles Soth, on behalf of the Naeve estate, donated to the association the Naeve homestead, valued at \$10,000. This was the first tangible asset on which to base a fund to erect a desirable building. Before anything definite was done, however,



Mr. Soth was accidentally killed. Following his death, and carrying out what they thought to be his wishes, his heirs offered the association a donation of \$5,000.

The matter rested there until September, 1909, the annual meeting was held and the following Board of Directors elected: Ludvig Kemper, H. C. Hanson, C. L. Luce, E. W. Knatvold, Bert Skinner, C. E. Paulson, Martin Blacklin, William Wohlhuter and H. C. Nelson, Hayward. Immediately following this meeting the board held a meeting and elected Ludvig Kemper president, C. L. Luce secretary and E. W. Knatvold treasurer. At this meeting a committee was appointed to devise ways and means to secure \$30,000, the amount estimated as needed to erect a modern hospital. Many plans were considered, and in November, 1910, on the request of the committee, the Business Men's League appointed a committee to work with the board in securing the needed funds. A plan was then laid out to have a general campaign of the county, a day to be set aside, when it was hoped by united effort the money could be secured. It would be impossible to go into the detail of this campaign, or to mention individually the large number of business men who donated their time and in many instances conveyances to visit a majority of the citizens of the county, but on Tuesday, December 13, 1910, nearly one hundred business men, working two days, secured subscription to the total amount of \$21,000, which with the \$5,000 already donated by the Soth heirs made a grand total of \$26,000.

With this fund subscribed, the Board of Directors of the hospital association appointed the necessary committees to look up plans, etc., and early in April, 1911, a contract for the erection of the building was let to Kingsley & Payant, of Faribault, Minn., while the contract for the heating, plumbing, etc., was given to P. J. Gallagher, of the same place. The first week in May the corner-stone was laid, and, appreciating the magnificent donations made by the Naeve and Soth estates, the hospital was christened the Naeve hospital. The work is now rapidly approaching completion, and by the first of next January the building will be completed, furnished and ready for occupancy. When completed it will cost approximately \$40,000. The building is planned along the latest, most scientific lines, absolutely fireproof throughout, three story and basement, built of vitrified brick, with Kasota stone foundation and trimmings, and frame, floors, stairs, etc., of reinforced concrete. The operating room will be on the third floor, with a large elevator to convey the patients to the different floors. Between thirty and forty patients can be accommodated.

Shortly after the organization of the association, the board



requested Mesdames Ella Truesdell and Alice I. Todd to act as a committee of organization of a Women's Auxiliary. In 1906 the auxiliary was organized, with Mrs. Ella Truesdell president, Mrs. A. Wiegand secretary and Henryetta Armstrong treasurer. During the following years the women composing the auxiliary have been indefatigable in their work, giving an annual charity ball, tag day, and various other schemes to raise money for the cause. By their efforts they have secured a fund of approximately \$2,500, which will be used in furnishing the new building. The present officers of the auxiliary are: President, Mrs. Alice I. Todd; vice president, Mrs. Martin Blacklin; secretary, Mrs. H. A. Spencer; treasurer, Mrs. Albert Meyer.

**Albert Lea Business Men's League.** This is one of the active organizations of the city, and has had an important part in making Albert Lea the beautiful city and progressive business center it is to-day. Its quarters over the Citizens' National Bank are pleasantly furnished, and fulfil their purpose most admirably. The league has taken an active part in practically all the recent improvements in Albert Lea, and is regarded as the father of the street paving project, the extension of the sewers, and the location here of the state creamery experiment station, the erection of the high school building, and other projects which have been of much advantage to the city. There have been various business organizations and boards of trade in Albert Lea in the past, but the present organization dates from 1906. The present officers are: President, D. C. Armstrong; vice president, F. A. Thompson; treasurer, C. E. Paulson; secretary, C. L. Luce.

**Cemeteries.** Jacob Adrian, the first person to die in Albert Lea, and also Elias Stanton, who died near the shores of Freeborn lake, were buried near the present site of the Luther Academy in Albert Lea, that locality at that time being the part of a school section. Bones believed to be those of Stanton were found in 1911, while excavating for the new building of the Luther Academy. After these burials, interments were made on speculators' land, about a mile due east of the Milwaukee station.

**The Albert Lea Cemetery** is located west of the city, on a pleasant piece of land, which is well kept and beautified with many monuments. February 20, 1875, after considerable discussion, during which the present site of the Albert Lea College was suggested as a suitable location, a piece of land was purchased from Rev. Isaac W. McReynolds, by a committee of citizens, the money being furnished by an appropriation from the town treasury. The cemetery was neglected, and in the spring of 1882 the subject of a new cemetery was agitated, and in May a meeting was held to discuss measures. H. D. Brown was called to the chair. The matter was freely talked over, and it was the



almost universal feeling and decision of all present that a new cemetery ground should be purchased and the old cemetery abandoned. As to the location, there were various opinions, although the majority seemed to favor a place north of Fountain lake. Others favored a location east of the Rock Island yards. The matter was finally relegated to a committee of nine, consisting of H. D. Brown, chairman; T. H. Armstrong, J. A. Lovely, D. R. P. Hibbs, W. P. Sergeant, W. W. Johnson, J. W. Smith and Dr. A. C. Wedge, who were to report to a future meeting of citizens concerning all the matters that pertained to the location of a new cemetery. This agitation resulted in a greatly improved cemetery, it being finally decided to retain the old site. The cemetery is at present controlled by an association of citizens.

**The Itasca Cemetery** in the southwest part of section 31, Bancroft township, was platted and laid out as a burial place in 1871, and was controlled by a private company. The cemetery is now practically abandoned, the last burial being ten years ago, when Henry Lacy, for many years county surveyor, was laid to rest there at his own request.

**Catholic Cemetery.** In 1910 the people of St. Theodore's parish opened a cemetery north of Fountain lake, near the Norwegian Lutheran cemetery. Previous to that date the interments of the people of that parish had been made principally in the Catholic cemetery located in the southwest corner of section 2, Albert Lea township. Many bodies have been reinterred in the new cemetery.

**The Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery** is pleasantly located north of Fountain lake. It was purchased by a committee of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Albert Lea, in 1879, and laid out at once. Among the early burials were: Nellie H. Hanson (two years of age), Mrs. G. A. Hauge, Caroline A. Skaug, Endre A. Gulbrandson and Frederick M. Frost. The first committee consisted of O. R. Wulfsberg, N. O. Styve, B. H. Skaug, C. G. Johnsrud and M. Leen.

**First Telephone.** A telephone system was installed in Albert Lea as early as 1884. This was the Bell system, and was managed by Chas. N. Farnsworth for some time.







AMERICAN GAS MACHINE CO. PLANT AND OFFICERS



## CHAPTER XXV.

### ALBERT LEA INTERESTS

American Gas Machine Company—Albert Lea Gas Light Company—Albert Lea Hide and Fur Company—Albert Lea Packing Company—Corset Companies—Wedge Nursery—Lake Shore Greenhouses—Albert Lea Mills—G. A. Olson Manufacturing Company—American Culvert Company—Other Companies—Loan Associations—Modern Business Houses.

Albert Lea is justly noted for its manufactured products, and several Albert Lea trade-marks are known all over the world. The manufacturing history of the city begins with 1855, when George S. Ruble began the operations which resulted in a dam at the foot of Fountain lake, and the mercantile history begin with 1856, when Julius Clark opened a small store on Clark street.

**American Gas Machine Company.** With an authorized capital of half a million dollars, the American Gas Machine company is easily the most important manufacturing institution in Albert Lea and in Freeborn county. The company has an enormous new factory at 233, 235, 237 and 239 East Clark street, where also is located their general offices.

As the name indicates, the American Gas Machine company is engaged in the business of manufacturing devices for producing and burning gas for lighting, cooking and heating purposes, such apparatus being made in the form of lamps, generators, carburators, et cetera. All such devices and apparatus are constructed to manufacture such gas from ordinary gasoline at great economy.

The company at present (1911) has over 75,000 square feet of floor space in its factory building and has about 250 employes, including the office force and a large corps of traveling salesmen. It also has over 700 agents throughout the country, together with many representatives in foreign countries. Two large branch houses have been established, one at Fargo, North Dakota, and another at Binghamton, New York, both of which are important distributing points for the company's products. The Fargo house supplies the trade of the Northwest and of Canada, while the Binghamton branch cares for the entire Atlantic coast business. Each branch house has a force of traveling salesman and many established agencies.

The American Gas Machine company of to-day is the develop-



ment and outgrowth of the invention and genius of its president and general manager, H. C. Hanson, who as far back as 1894 first conceived the idea of manufacturing illuminating gas from gasoline. Mr. Hanson began a long series of experiments and devised crude apparatus which went through rapid development for the first few years, and finally was perfected into the present efficient line of machines and devices put out by this company.

The first manufacturing was conducted by Mr. Hanson in what is known as the C. D. Edwards building, on West William street, and here a few of the earlier styles of machines were made. The light afforded by these lamps was quite a wonder in their day, being far superior to any known methods of lighting. In the spring of 1899 the little factory was moved into the old Enterprise building, corner of William and Washington street, at which time Thomas H. Hjort, now vice president of the company, became a partner to Mr. Hanson, and later was joined by a third partner, Walter Olson, superintendent of the present modern factory on East Clark street.

The partners widened the scope of their operations as rapidly as possible, and eventually reached the point where greatly increased manufacturing facilities were necessary. It was therefore decided to incorporate under the name of the American Gas Machine Company, and application for a charter was filed November 28, 1903. The incorporators named in the document were: Ferd Larson, N. B. Christensen, J. P. Jensen, C. A. Ransom, Edward Olson, George Hurd, E. W. Knatvold, R. C. Blackmer, Julius Larson, H. G. Day, A. A. Robinson, H. C. Hanson, Walter Olson and Thomas H. Hjort.

The first board of directors consisted of H. C. Hanson, Walter Olson, Thomas H. Hjort, Edward Olson, Ferd Larson, C. A. Ransom and A. A. Robinson, and the first stockholders' meeting was held December 7, 1903, with H. C. Hanson presiding, and C. A. Ransom acting as secretary.

The board of directors at a subsequent meeting selected the first officers for the company as follows: President, H. C. Hanson; vice president, Thomas H. Hjort; secretary, Ferd Larson; treasurer, C. A. Ransom.

The first business of importance transacted by the new company was the decision to build a larger and more commodious factory. During the final period of the old partnership, the business had been moved from the old Enterprise building to East William street, where a small building, now occupied by Tapager & Hanson as a carpenter shop, had been erected. This building had been quickly outgrown, and the new company accordingly purchased land to the east of this building, and in 1904 erected what was really its first factory building.



This structure was 32x100 feet in size, and two stories in height, and was thought to be large enough to take care of all possible increase in the business. Yet so rapidly did the new method of lighting gain in public favor that within a year the company was again cramped for room. From that time there was a constant building of additions to the factory building, while more and more modern machinery was demanded and installed.

Finally, in the spring of 1910, it was found that the company had no more room in which to enlarge, and the board of directors was empowered to select a new factory site and arrange for the construction of a modern factory and office building. Desirable property was soon secured on East Clark street, and the erection of the present building was begun in March, 1910, the structure being completed and occupied in February, 1911.

The new factory is 66x140 feet and has six floors, comprising an area of 75,000 square feet. The total cost of the building was nearly \$100,000, and it is equipped throughout in the most modern style, including fireproof construction, automatic sprinkling system, steel lockers, sanitary drinking fountains, independent telephone system, automatic signals, and the like, and is brilliantly lighted from top to bottom with apparatus of the company's own make.

The American Gas Machine company finds a market for its products all over the world, shipping goods to practically every civilized country.

The present officers of the company are: President and general manager, H. C. Hanson; vice president, Thomas H. Hjort; secretary and treasurer, H. W. Jensen. The present board of directors consists of the following: H. C. Hanson, Thomas H. Hjort, H. W. Jensen, Walter Olson, Edward Olson, F. C. Larson, William Peterson.

**Albert Lea Gas Light Company.** One of the large concerns which has helped to make Albert Lea famous throughout the United States is the Albert Lea Gas Light Company, with its familiar "Brite-Lite" trade mark. This characteristic label, which shows against a black background, the earth, girdled by a "Brite-Lite" band, and illuminated at the opposite poles by the sun and the Albert Lea Gas Light Company light, is seen in thousands of homes, on many village street lights, and in churches, office buildings and public halls; and wherever found is a guarantee of the article upon which it is stamped. Its "Comet" mark is also well known.

The company, though young, has at its head a man who for many years has been identified with gas illumination in all its phases, and to this new enterprise he brought not only his wide



and minute experience, but also many new ideas in development and improvement, and the products of the company represent the highest point reached in artificial illumination.

The company manufactures exclusively all kinds of gasoline lighting apparatus and fixtures for stores, churches, halls and residences. An important feature of the business is the making of a portable light, which consumes gasoline; and at a cost much less than that of kerosene, furnishes a strong soft brilliant light, which those who have used it, declare to be superior to any other form of artificial illumination. The boon that this single make of lamp has been to the rural districts can scarcely be measured, and only those who have replaced flickering and mussy kerosene lamps with a brilliant "Brite-Lite" lamp can appreciate the revolution which has taken place. However, this portable lamp is but one line. At the present time the company is making a specialty of installing lighting plans in farm residences. By this system, which is recommended both for its cheapness and simplicity as well as for its excellence, the most remote farm house can be supplied with a lighting system equal if not superior to the illumination in any city home. In the way of fixtures for these systems, the company carries a line of ornamental work suited to the finances of those in the most moderate circumstances, or satisfying the tastes of the most luxurious.

A specialty is also made of street lights for villages, and where these lights have been tried the village fathers have united in praise of their reasonable price, ornamental appearance, simplicity of service and excellence of results. In addition to the lines mentioned the company has also paid special attention to the lighting of stores, churches and halls. Its catalogues and descriptive matter are in themselves an education in the art and development of artificial illumination.

The Albert Lea Gas Light Company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota, in February, 1909, the capital stock being \$200,000. The first officers were: President and general manager, S. K. Swenson, Albert Lea; vice-president, J. P. Sheehan, Albert Lea; secretary, A. L. Dennstedt, Albert Lea; treasurer, C. L. Swenson, Albert Lea. The board of directors consisted of the above named gentlemen with E. W. Dennstedt, Albert Lea; A. E. Dennstedt, Wimbeldon, N. D., and T. F. Rogers, Albert Lea. The present officers are: President and general manager, S. K. Swenson; vice-president and sales manager, E. W. Dennstedt; secretary, A. L. Dennstedt; treasurer, C. L. Swenson. All these gentlemen live in Albert Lea.

The company commenced business in April, 1909. At that time some eight or nine people were on the pay roll. Owing to the rapid growth of the company as the result of good manage-





SOREN K. SWENSON









HERMAN HIRSCH—ALBERT LEA HIDE & FUR CO.—ABRAHAM HIRSCH



ment and an excellent product, the company now has seven people in its Albert Lea office, twenty-five people in the factory and eighteen road salesmen. The company is doing business in practically every state in the Union, in Canada and in foreign countries. This year the business has increased something like one hundred per cent over that of last year, and two months ago it was found necessary to open an office in Denver, Colo., a branch having previously been established at Fargo, N. D.

**The Albert Lea Hide & Fur Company.** This company conducts an enterprise that has made Albert Lea known all over the United States, and tans more hides and furs for robes, coats and rugs than any other hide house in the country. The company deals in furs and hides, wool, pelts and tallow, the business being conducted by H. Hirsch, and managed by Abe Hirsch, who is one of Albert Lea's most energetic and popular citizens. The business was started in April, 1903, in a small way on East Clark street, in a building 20x60, where the proprietors thought they would have room for what business there was to be done in Albert Lea. But the push and energy of the company began to show itself, and soon two, and later three, warehouses were rented. Then a building was purchased and a basement put under it, and it appeared that this would provide ample quarters. But soon the firm was short of room, and the building was exchanged for the old Skinner mill, which seemed ample for the growth of the business. Some \$4,000 was expended in fitting up the mill for a hide and wool house, but after a year the firm was again short of room. Consequently an addition sixty feet long, two stories high, was erected, but a year later another addition sixty feet long, was necessary to accommodate the growing business. So now, in addition to the mill building, 60x30 feet, three stories and basement, the company has a storage room of 188 feet, basement and second story, in the new building. Yet the firm is often crowded for room, and additional buildings may be necessary.

When the Messrs. Hirsch started in business in Albert Lea it looked to them that the business would amount to from about \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually, this being the estimate they put on the hide and fur possibilities in this locality. But at the present time a business of from \$600,000 to \$750,000 is done yearly. The main business consists of wool, of which the company handles from 500,000 to 700,000 pounds a season, this large amount of business coming from Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and some from Wisconsin and Nebraska. The fur business amounts to from about \$250,000 to \$300,000 a season, and there is not a state in the Union from which shipments are not received, some coming even from Alaska. The hide business amounts to



from forty to fifty carloads a year, received from Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and other states.

The success of the business is largely due to the work and business intelligence of Abe Hirsch, the manager. Abe Hirsch is a believer in advertising, and when the business started he commenced advertising on a small scale. The senior Hirsch doubted whether this would pay, as this was a small town, and it seemed doubtful if people would ship their goods here. But Abe Hirsch had faith, and after a trial with an advertising expense of from \$500 to \$700, the shipments began to come in, and at the present time the advertising expense is some \$8,000 annually, there being on the firm's list some 125,000 to 150,000 names to which circulars are sent out three times a year.

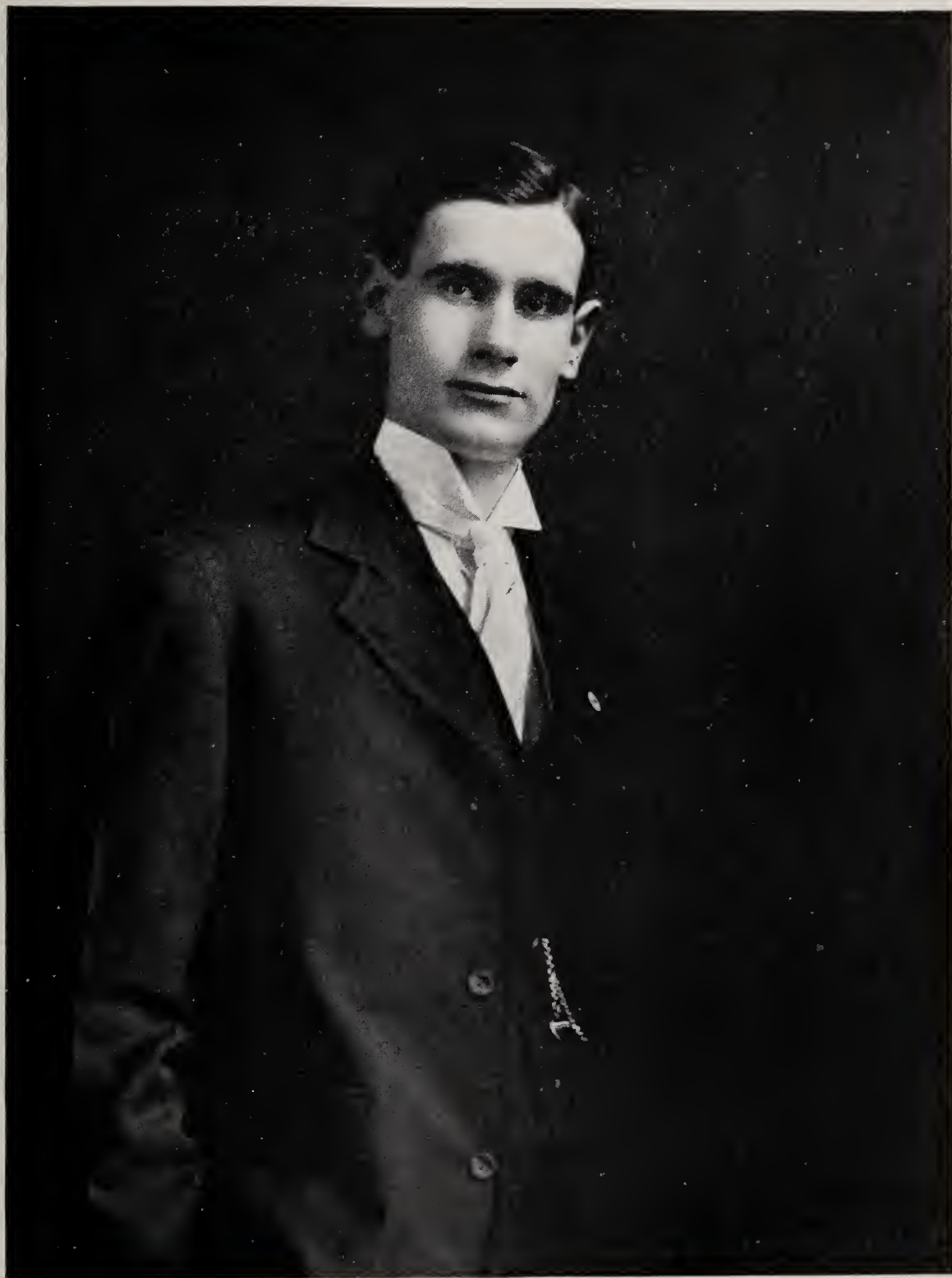
The firm does its banking with the First National Bank of Albert Lea, and is that institution's largest customer. Five traveling men are on the road all the while.

In speaking of the firm's business, Abe Hirsch says: "We have a very good retail trade from the merchants and farmers in this vicinity, but we consider our advertising our best investment. We have from 25,000 to 30,000 shippers on our list, and these shippers are kept thoroughly posted on the market throughout the year. Our railroad facilities are pretty fair here, but the transportation rates are somewhat against us, and we have to fight the railroad companies to a great extent. We hope in time to get the same rates east as Minneapolis. We have taken it up with the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington and Chicago, but this entails much labor and expense, and is difficult in a small town, where it must be done single-handed. In the large cities the great interests combine and work together, thus sharing expenses and producing results impossible in a small town."

**The Northwestern Tanning Company** was started in Albert Lea, October 1, 1907, by I. J. Dahl and P. Wallum, the latter of whom has now retired from the business. The company started business in a building on East Clark street formerly occupied by the Albert Lea Hide & Fur Company. Later the concern moved its plant to a building opposite the creamery on Bridge street. The company is doing a good business and receives a large number of hides and furs for tanning purposes.

**The Albert Lea Packing Company** is one of Albert Lea's important industries, and its products are high in favor throughout the large territory in which they have been marketed. The hogs in the dairy districts of southern Minnesota are acknowledged to be among the best in the world, and this company handles from 20,000 to 25,000 yearly, producing toothsome hams, shoulders, bacons, sausage and other pork products. From





HENRY SOTH





3,000 to 4,000 veals and about 2,000 beeves are also handled annually. As high as sixty hands are employed at certain seasons of the year, and the business is growing so rapidly that a new building will probably be put up in the spring. The business was started on East Main street, between Broadway and William, many years ago, by Charles and Axel Brundin. In 1908 the Brundin Packing Company was incorporated with the following officers: President, Axel Brundin; vice president, Charles Soth; secretary, Lawrence Paulson; treasurer, Charles Paulson. In 1910 this company was succeeded by the Albert Lea Packing Company. The Albert Lea Packing Company was incorporated in 1910, with the following officers and directors: President, Henry Soth; vice president, William Wohlhuter; secretary, Lawrence Paulson; treasurer, Charles Paulson; superintendent, C. L. Brooks; all these, with Fred Behrnes, being the directors. The authorized capital stock is \$500,000 and the paid-in capital, \$50,000.

**The Albert Lea Corset Company** was conceived late in 1902, and was incorporated January 1, 1903, the officers being: Theodore Taraldson, president; Herbert E. Skinner, vice president; M. Blacklin, secretary and treasurer. Business was started in January, 1903, at 129 Broadway, Albert Lea. In 1908 the company moved from there to its present location, 113-117 South Newton street. Here it has 9,000 feet of floor space and about sixty employes. Plans are now being made for the erection of a modern factory building. The present officers are: Martin Blacklin, president; F. C. Berkvam, vice president; E. Blacklin, secretary and treasurer. The company does a large and constantly increasing business in corsets and waists, the "AlbertA" make being a favorite with the ladies everywhere in the large territory in which it has been introduced.

**The Luce Corset Company** is one of Albert Lea's newer institutions, but succeeds the Case Corset Company, which was organized here in 1885. The Luce company manufactures the "Lucile" make of corsets and waists, and since its organization, June 3, 1911, has enjoyed a large business. The location of the factory is at 116 West Clark street, in the rooms formerly occupied by the Case company. The principal ones interested in the company are Bert Skinner, C. L. Luce, Dr. W. L. Palmer, C. E. Paulson and Henry Soth. The active manager of the plant is Bessie E. Dame, who has done excellent work and demonstrated her fitness for the position.

**The Wedge Nursery** was founded by Clarence Wedge in the year 1890, two miles southeast of Albert Lea, on what is known as Echo Farm, being the first commercial nursery established in Freeborn county. The nursery has been engaged in the



propagation of a general line of hardy stock for out-of-door planting suited to the needs of the adjacent country and to the sections north and west. The nursery was carried on for ten years at Echo Farm until it had grown to such proportions as made it seem desirable to move to a soil that was better adapted to nursery purposes, the soil at Echo Farm being a stiff clay with occasional stones, in which it was difficult to use manual labor and nursery machinery to the best advantage.

Such soil was found at the present location, two miles northwest of the city, where the plant was moved in 1900. In 1906 a partnership was formed between Clarence Wedge, the original owner, and Robert C. Wedge, his second son, which has been maintained to the present time. The land now owned and operated by the firm comprises about 350 acres particularly adapted to nursery and orchard purposes. On this land they are growing large quantities of apple, plum, grape and small fruits and have perhaps the largest stock of evergreens in the state of Minnesota. From the start the nursery has made a specialty of evergreens for windbreak purposes, and by far the larger share of the evergreen windbreaks that adorn the homes of the farmers of this section were grown and sent out by this nursery. The orchard of thirty acres on Echo Farm which is owned by the senior partner is the largest in the country, and was the first from which apples were shipped by the car lot. This orchard, much of which is just beginning to bear, is composed almost entirely of the Wealthy, and the crop harvested has been over one thousand bushels for several seasons. The firm has had the honor of being the first to introduce the following valuable varieties of fruits and ornamentals to this section: Hibernial apple, Patten's Greening apple, Lowland raspberry, Anisim, Wyant plum, Compass cherry, Perfection currant, Colorado Blue spruce, Douglas fir, Concolor fir, and the Hybrid Rugosa roses.

**The Lake Shore Greenhouses** are beautifully situated on the north shore of Fountain lake and are owned and conducted by P. Clausen and son, G. A. Clausen. The business was started in a small way by P. Clausen in 1885. He did not at the time have any idea of growing and selling flowers for profit, but only for his own pastime and pleasure. The demand, however, came for flowers, so gradually he worked into the business. In 1897 his son, G. A. Clausen, became interested and joined in partnership with his father, and the business has increased so that now they have a range of about 50,000 square feet of glass in order to supply the demand. The larger part of the greenhouses is devoted to growing cut flowers, roses, carnations, violets and chrysanthemums and the other leading varieties. About one-half of the output is sold in Freeborn county and the surround-





PETER CLAUSEN



G. A. CLAUSEN



LAKE SHORE GREENHOUSES





ing cities and towns. The balance is disposed of at wholesale. The plant is heated by steam, two boilers being used, one sixty and one one hundred horsepower, annually consuming about 600 tons of coal, heat being necessary eight months of the year. The firm also has its own waterworks system, supplying water for their dwelling houses as well as for the greenhouses. An average of ten people are employed throughout the season.

**The Albert Lea Brick & Tile Company.** This company was incorporated in January, 1905, the incorporators being M. F. Rushfeldt, W. A. Morin, J. H. Griffin, Henry C. Carlson, and A. F. Rushfeldt. One of the first acts of the new company was the purchase of the business and good will of the Albert Lea Brick Yard, which was owned by M. F. Rushfeldt. The Albert Lea Brick Yard was located on South Broadway, where it had been in active operation for twenty-seven years. The new company did not consider the South Broadway real estate holdings sufficiently extensive to warrant the erection of such an immense plant as was contemplated, so a twenty-acre tract was purchased in the Sunny Side addition adjoining the city on the west, where the plant is now located. The South Broadway plant was only operated by the new company during the season of 1905, in order that they might fill the orders which had been accepted by Mr. Rushfeldt when he was operating alone and for the further purpose of making the brick required to erect the new plant. At the new plant the company has a deposit of clear, pure blue clay of the best quality for brick and tile purposes, that is over forty feet in depth, which is considered one of the very finest clay deposits known to exist anywhere. This clay bank was discovered by Mr. Rushfeldt, who had spent most of his spare time for several years, together with a great deal of money, in prospecting for a suitable deposit advantageously situated for the erection of a new plant, which had been a creature of his imagination for a number of years previous to the formation of the company. After the building of the plant there were ten kilns in constant use, each of which had a capacity of 70,000 brick or 27,000 four-inch tile every eleven days, it requiring that length of time to complete the process of manufacture. To operate this vast plant three engines were required, one of 224 horsepower, one of thirty horsepower and one of eighteen horsepower, and employment was given to about fifty persons. For fuel, coal was used, of which 7,500 tons were consumed annually. The plant is not now in operation.

**The Albert Lea Flour Mills Company** is the name under which the United Flour Mills Company, of Minneapolis, capitalized at \$500,000, operates in Albert Lea. About twenty men are employed here, and the flour and feed manufactured is of a



high grade. The Albert Lea mill was begun in 1883 by C. B. Thompson, the city and vicinity having subscribed a bonus of \$5,031, over \$1,000 of which, however, was never paid. Mr. Thompson proved financially unequal to the undertaking, and it dragged along until the spring of 1884, when the Albert Lea Mill Company, composed of R. M. Todd, S. C. Jansen, D. R. P. Hibbs and Salena Todd, bought Thompson out, completed the mill and started it running. The mill changed hands a number of times, and was several times burned. At the time of the sale of the mill to the present owners the mill was owned by the Albert Lea Milling Company, of which C. C. Dwight and G. W. Hopkins were the principal officers.

**G. A. Olson Manufacturing Company.** In 1892 Gustave A. Olson, a farmer in Riceland township, conceived the idea that the farm implements then in use might be greatly simplified. Accordingly he constructed a hay sling for his own use. In 1898 he began to make a few for his neighbors on an improved plan, and in 1899 he made some patterns which resulted a year later, December 18, 1900, in his obtaining a patent on the "Common Sense" hay sling. In 1901 he came to Albert Lea and started on a small scale in a tin shop. In 1904 the company was formed, the men interested being G. A. Olson, Samuel Hanson and Alfred Christopherson. The company remains the same to the present day, with the exception that in 1907 S. Otis Simonson took the place of A. Christopherson. March 8, 1904, a patent was obtained on a "Perfection" shock compressor, and December 12, 1905, the "Advance" hay carrier was patented. In 1907 the company rented the G. A. Hauge building on Washington street, and in 1908 purchased the building of the Thompson Seed Company on South Broadway. A litter carrier with many new appliances is secured under two patents, and is the latest development in this line of farm conveniences. The patents under which the company operates are all the result of Mr. Olson's fertile brain, and are a distinct addition to the conveniences of farm life and labor. The business of the firm is large and is growing from year to year.

**The American Culvert Company** is one of the progressive industries of Albert Lea, and although young, gives promise of assuming large proportions. It was organized in 1910, with an authorized capital stock of \$50,000 and a paid-in capital stock of \$10,000. The first board of directors consisted of T. V. Knat-volt (president), C. L. Swenson (treasurer), E. Pankhurst (secretary), A. C. Bisbee and B. A. Bisbee. The directors and officers are still the same, with the exception that S. Nelson has taken the place of B. A. Bisbee. The company rented a building for a while, and then erected their present factory on Robert street.





G. A. OLSON





The building is of cement construction, 30x80 feet. The main product of the company is corrugated culverts, from nine inches to seven feet in diameter, made with an interlocking joint, which gives the culverts a uniform size throughout. This patent is called the Pankhurst-Bisbee Interlocking Joint, and its merits have won it a wide sale, the customers being mostly township and county officials. In addition to the culverts, the company makes cupolas, tanks and other conveniences and ornaments.

**The C. D. Edwards Factory** has contributed not a little to Albert Lea's reputation as a manufacturing center. Mr. Edwards, who is a skilled machinist, started making his own inventions in Albert Lea in 1882, and has since continued in the same line of business, manufacturing stump pullers, ditching machines, road graders, iron shears and other articles. The plant is located at 220 West William street, and the output is satisfactory.

**The Enterprise Iron Foundry** does general foundry work and employs a number of men. The foundry was started in 1894 by J. Wellington Veness, and has since enjoyed a prosperous career under the same management.

**The Star Foundry**, after a prosperous career of four years in Albert Lea, is moving to Waterloo, Iowa. In 1907 A. A. Koch, an inventor, came here and opened a foundry at 309-315 West Main street. Among Mr. Koch's inventions are a power hammer, a universal woodworking machine, a concrete mixer and other machines. The foundry has been doing a large business in engineering, foundry work, machine work, boiler making, structural iron and steel work, sewer castings and blacksmith tools.

**The Albert Lea Construction Co.**, contractors, builders and manufacturers in cement blocks, brick sidewalks, sewer drain tile, marble floor slabs and all products manufactured in cement, is an important industry of the city of Albert Lea. The company was incorporated in 1909 with a capital stock of \$50,000. The officers are: President, C. M. Tapager; vice president, N. J. Paulsen; treasurer, Anton Larsen; secretary, S. P. Swendsen. The directors are these gentlemen, with J. P. Larsen. Anton Larsen is the manager and S. P. Swendsen the assistant manager. This company succeeds the North Albert Lea Concrete Works, started by Anton Larsen, who in 1907 bought out H. A. Paine, who had previously done some concrete and cement work in the city.

**D. M. Dominick** has been in the cement business in Albert Lea for many years, being one of the pioneers in this line in this vicinity. He has a large plant on Charles street, employs some twenty men and does a large business in all kinds of cement contracting, constructing and manufacturing.

**The Johnson Brothers Manufacturing Co.** was started April 1, 1909, as the successor of the Sharp Manufacturing Co. Ernest P.



Johnson looks after the machine department and Milford V. attends to the office work. The company does custom work, repair work, steel structural work, windmill manufacturing, steel tank manufacturing, special machinery work and well drilling. Although the company is new, it does a large business and is soon to increase its quarters by using the space formerly occupied by the Star foundry. J. G. Sharp located in Albert Lea in 1883, as a well borer, and a good many of the old wells in Freeborn county were sunk by him. In 1892 he commenced manufacturing well machinery, and a few years later, windmills. In 1902 a stock company was organized and the business was expanded. Besides digging wells and manufacturing well machinery, two kinds of windmills were made, and now the Monarch and Clipper can be seen on a great many farms. Mr. Sharp perfected the Monarch well drill.

**The Western Grocer Co.**, of Marshalltown, Ia., wholesale grocers and packers of vegetable products, maintains a large establishment in Albert Lea, in charge of Frank E. Brewer. The company began operations in Albert Lea in 1900, succeeding the Ransom Brothers Co., wholesale grocers. Charles R. Ransom started in business as a restaurant man. His son, Robert G., succeeded him, and later Robert G. and Charles engaged in the retail grocery business. Later the firm of Ransom Brothers Co. was started, and the wholesale business under the management of Robert G. Ransom was in a flourishing condition when sold to the Western Grocer Co. in 1900.

**The France Dredging & Construction Co.**, of Mansfield, has had several big contracts in this vicinity, and for that purpose maintains a branch in Albert Lea. The company was organized about twenty years ago, in Mansfield, O., and is engaged in constructing dredge ditches. About twenty men are employed by the Albert Lea branch.

**The C. R. Brandon Candy Co.** started business April 1, 1911, and does a large business in jobbing fine confectionery.

**The Albert Lea Bottling Works** are located on the corner of Washington and College streets, and bottles all kinds of soft drinks. The concern was purchased from Edward Olson, by Adam Wiegand, and is now owned by the Adam Wiegand estate, being managed by Robert Wiegand.

**The Neilson Wagon Works** some two years ago succeeded the Matson Wagon Works, which some three years ago succeeded the Hauge Wagon Works. In the early days the concern was composed of G. A. Hauge and C. Christopherson. Mr. Hauge purchased the establishment in 1875. At one time the concern turned out as many as 150 wagons a year. The present company manufactures some wagons, but devotes most of its time to repairing.

**Joseph Pfeffer** started his wagon shop in 1869 and added the



repair department and blacksmith shop in 1878. The firm is still in business here.

**George Drommerhausen & Son** carry on a successful wagon-making and repair shop. The business was started in 1866 at the corner of Newton and William streets and in 1868 moved to its present location on Clark street.

**O. M. Peterson Nursery.** This nursery, which is located north of the city, is a growing institution, and its products have already won wide favor.

### BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

**Albert Lea Building & Loan Association.** This association, which has taken so important part in the industrial progress of Freeborn county, was organized February 12, 1887, and started business three days later. Its incorporators were A. W. White, W. P. Sergeant, R. B. Skinner, W. Buel, M. H. Trusdell, T. V. Knatvold, H. G. Day, William McAdam and D. R. P. Hibbs. The association has enjoyed a steady growth and unusual prosperity. February 1, 1902, the association had \$48,384.46 invested in mortgage loans; its common stock amounted to \$32,280.51, and its prepaid stock to \$22,450.00. August 1, 1911, it had \$354,323.32 invested in mortgage loans; its common stock amounted to \$189,852.07, and its prepaid stock to \$177,350.00. The financial statement of the association July 31, 1911, was as follows: Assets—Mortgage loans, \$354,328.32; stock loans, \$19,060.36; real estate, \$1,178.81; miscellaneous account, \$99.87; cash on hand, \$1,813.23; total, \$376,480.59. Liabilities—Common stock, \$189,852.07; prepaid stock, \$177,350.00; dividends to prepaid stock (unpaid), \$6,549.31; undivided profits, \$2,729.21. Total, \$376,480.59. The presidents of the association have been: M. H. Trusdell, H. G. Day, W. C. Merrill and Victor Gillrup. The present officers are: President, Victor Gillrup; vice president, H. G. Day; secretary, C. A. Briggs; treasurer, A. C. Erickson; attorney, T. V. Knatvold; directors, L. A. Brown, H. H. Dunn, H. J. Harm and C. M. Tapager. In 1910 the association was incorporated at \$2,000,000.

**The People's Building & Loan Association** was organized April 1, 1905, the incorporators being John G. Godley, D. R. P. Hibbs, D. C. Armstrong, Frank W. Barlow, C. L. Hill, N. C. Sorenson, M. L. Whelan, George P. Lattin and Emil Nelson. The first president, George P. Lattin, was succeeded by Frank W. Barlow, who is still in office. The first secretary, W. A. Higgins, was succeeded in 1907 by C. L. Hill, who is still in office. D. C. Armstrong has been the treasurer since its organization. The present board of directors consists of Frank W. Barlow, D. C. Armstrong, N. C. Sorenson, S. P. Swendsen, M. L. Whelan, C. L. Hill, E. Carey, M. M. Jones and J. C. Peterson. The statement of the com-



pany, just issued, shows the following assets and liabilities: Assets—Mortgage loans, \$108,962.38; stock loans, \$2,390.00; office fixtures, \$25.00; cash with treasurer, \$1,369.96; cash with secretary, \$272.46; total, \$113,019.80. Liabilities—Common stock, \$43,951.04; preferred stock, \$31,350.00; bills payable, \$30,824.73; dividends unpaid, \$1,254.00; accrued interest, \$650.00; unfinished business, \$3,309.85; surplus, \$1,680.18; total, \$113,019.80.

### MODERN BUSINESS HOUSES.

In the following list no effort has been made to prepare a directory of the business houses of Albert Lea, the intention being merely to preserve for future generations the list of the principal lines of business conducted in Albert Lea at the time of the publication of this history.

Drugs—E. H. Brown, Barlow & Spicer, Briggs Drug Co., C. F. Towne, Kjorlaug & Evenson and Hanson Bros. Groceries—Peter A. Nelson & Son, Barrigan & Thurston, Martin L. Olson, Union Supply Co., J. J. Berkvam, Theodore Bell, Empire Grocery Co., O. A. Malmer, Creamery Store, Central Grocery Co. Jewelers—H. J. Harn, G. T. Wasrud, J. Bessessen, J. L. Klemme, E. W. Dick, T. J. Sime, L. P. Jensen. Dentists—Drs. A. O. Watlund, C. L. Blunt and Archibald L. McCulloch, W. L. Devaney, O. A. Ross, C. M. Simonson and Thomas. 'Bus line—Terwilliger & Wittmers. Liveries—Reynolds & Luce, Bassett & Davies. Retail cigars—W. A. Irvin and D. A. Giles & Sons. Barbers—Jacob P. Petersen, Jensen & Petersen, Fred W. Kappel, H. W. Penny. Land dealers—Herbert E. Skinner (the only exclusive farm land agent in the county), L. A. Brown, Hurd Realty Co., Skinner Bros Co., E. S. Hammond, Lane & Chadwick and others. Insurance—M. M. Jones, John E. Ransom, L. A. Brown, E. S. Hammond and others. Tailors—Christian Andersen, J. P. Johnson and Andrew Boyum. Photographers—J. A. Fuller, Roe & Whitmore, Jensen Bros. Wholesale—Western Grocery Co. Paints and supplies—J. J. Sullivan, N. C. Nelson. Music store—J. E. Simms, C. & V. Piano and Automobile Co. Lumber companies—C. L. Coleman Lumber Co., Brandon Bros., Minnesota Lumber Co., Louis Sanborn Lumber Co. Marble and granite—Albert Lea Marble Works, Star Marble Works. Meat markets—Charles Brundin, Axel Brundin, H. M. Steiler, Albert Lea Meat Market. Horse shippers—Hanford & Davies. Laundry—Thompson Steam Laundry, Albert Lea Laundry. Wholesale fruits—Stacy Fruit & Produce Co. Furniture—P. F. Peterson. B. H. Knatvold, Andrew Haugen. Elevators—W. W. Cargill Co., Giles A. Swan, Myrtle Grain Co. Flour mills—Albert Lea Flour Mills Co., Farmers' Feed Mill, Martin Hanson. Dairies—Albert Lea Milk Co., Clover Hill Dairy, Oak Lawn Dairy. Department stores—Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., Lembke Dry Goods



Co., Nelson Bros. Department Store. Cold storage—Smith Wright & Sons, A. Hise, agent. Greenhouse—P. Clausen & Son. Creamery supplies—Northern Creamery Supply Co. Civil engineers—F. H. Fisk, William Barneck, E. V. H. Brown. Men's furnishings—Model Clothing Co., J. Jensen & Co., O. C. Hayden & Co., A. E. Carlsen, Skong Clothing Co., Nelsen & Sorensen. Coal—C. L. Coleman & Co., G. A. Swan, Albert Lea Ice & Fuel Co., Speltz Coal Co., Gripman, Moore & Co. Wagon makers—Joseph Pffeffer, Charles Drommerhausen, Nielsen Wagon Works. Boots and shoes—Boston Shoe Store, Plymouth Shoe Co., Thompson-Hedemark. Contractors and builders—Anderson Bros., Beck & Roe, N. C. Sorenson, Tapager & Hansen, Hazle & McNeill. Agricultural implements, buggies and hardware—Gulbrandson Hardware Co., Jewel Hardware Co., Albert Lea Hardware Co., Peterson Implement Co. Auctioneer—William Nelson. Bakeries—P. A. Nelson & Son, Charles Jergensen, M. L. Olson, Empire Grocery Co. Garages and auto dealers—C. & V. Auto & Piano Co., Albert Lea Auto Co., Motor Inn Co., Home Auto Co. Theaters—Broadway (dramatic), Idle Hour Theater (moving pictures), Airdome (summer theater). Printers—The Albert Lea newspapers maintain printing, publishing and stationery departments, and in addition to this the Lewis Printing Co. and the Commercial Printing Co. do job printing. Abstractors—The Freeborn County Abstract Co., I. L. Ingbritsen, manager. Insurance companies—The Consolidated Fire and Marine Insurance Co. flourished here many years, with C. W. Ransom as president, W. A. Morin as vice president and John H. Griffin as secretary and treasurer; the headquarters of the concern are now in Minneapolis. Harvester machinery—The International Harvester Co. maintained an agency here for many years, starting in the late eighties. This branch office did much to advertise Albert Lea and brought much business here. It has now been moved elsewhere.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### ALBERT LEA CHURCHES.

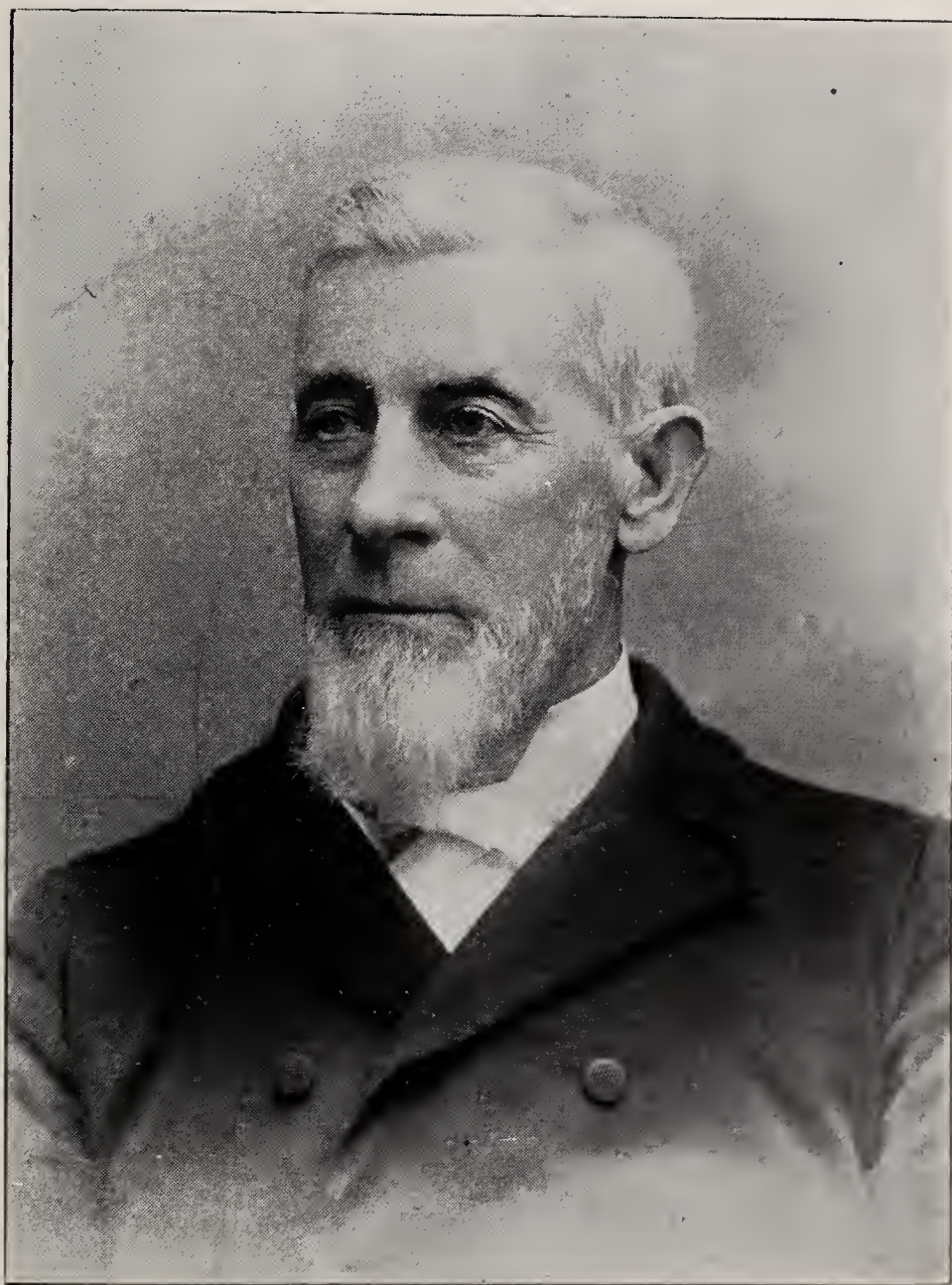
**Early Settlers Were Devout Men—First Religious Services—Story of the Various Religious Bodies—Original Organization—Early Pastors—Later Day Pastors—Dates the Buildings Were Erected—Various Activities Connected with the Churches—Former Churches.**

Fortunately for the future of Albert Lea, a majority of the moving spirits of village and township in the early days were God-fearing men, with rigid standards of moral conduct. In 1856, Isaac W. McReynolds came to the township, and although not a regular member of any conference, he held meetings at various places, administered the comforts of religion to the dying and performed the last sad rites over their bodies. May 3, 1857, Rev. Sylvester N. Phelps, of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, held a service at William Kellar's, a mile southwest of the courthouse, and preached the first Gospel sermon ever delivered by a regularly ordained preacher in Albert Lea. From this sermon dates the religious history of Albert Lea.

**First Presbyterian Church.** In pioneer times the people thirsting for spiritual ministrations in the wilderness to which they had come, did not trouble themselves greatly about denominational differences. Rev. S. G. Lowry, a Presbyterian, and Rev. Isaac W. McReynolds, Methodist lay preacher, conducted worship in the village of Albert Lea in the early days, the services being attended by the Christians of all denominations. In July, 1858, a union Sunday school was organized in the old log house, all the scholars except Clarence Wedge, then very young, being adults. In the fall of the same year, Rev. Stephen Cook, a Congregationalist, came here from Austin and held services with a view to organizing a church. Six persons expressed a willingness to join such a church, and although of the six three were Congregationalists and three Presbyterians, out of deference to Rev. Cook it was decided that the church should be a Congregational body. The original six were Mrs. Mary F. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. J. U. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Eaton and Mrs. Brock Woodruff. After Rev. Cook, the Rev. Philo Canfield served the congregation several years, but his poor health prevented real active work on his part.

In 1868 Rev. Dr. W. M. Paxton of the First Presbyterian church of New York city, and his friend, M. Darlington, of Pitts-





RUSSELL B. ABBOTT, D. D.





burg, Penn., came here hunting, and owing to poor hotel accommodations were invited to the home of Augustus Armstrong, where they were entertained. Learning of Mrs. Armstrong's interest in church work, Dr. Paxton offered to preach for the Congregationalists at their Sunday meeting. The two men were well treated here and made many friends, becoming so enthusiastic that they determined to see that a church was built here. But it was hardly to be expected that their Presbyterian friends in the East would erect a Congregational church for the people of Albert Lea. Accordingly it was proposed that the Congregationalists here, a part of whom had originally been Presbyterians, organize as a Presbyterian church. As there is little difference between these two church bodies, except in matters of government, the people accepted the offer and organized a Presbyterian church. At the present time such an offer would not be made, much less accepted, but the circumstances at that time were different, and the need of a church edifice was great.

In accordance with Dr. Paxton's suggestion, eighteen faithful attendants at such services as had been held here petitioned the Presbytery of southern Minnesota to organize a church here.

In response to this petition, the Presbytery appointed Rev. D. C. Lyon and Rev. A. J. Stead a committee to meet the petitioners, and, if the way should be clear, organize the church. Accordingly, on the 29th of September, 1868, these brethren held a meeting for this purpose in the courthouse in Albert Lea. Rev. S. G. Lowry and Rev. Theophus Lowry, of the Presbytery of Mankato, were present by invitation, and assisted in the proceedings. The church was then formally organized, under the name of the First Presbyterian church of Albert Lea, with the following members: Benjamin Brownsill, Mrs. Elizabeth Brownsill, Curtis B. Kellar, Samuel Eaton, Mrs. Clarissa Eaton, Mrs. S. M. Robinson, Mrs. Eliza Hunt, Mrs. Harriet J. Barden, Mrs. Mary F. Armstrong, Samuel Thompson, Mrs. Amanda Woodruff, Mrs. Darrow, Mrs. Henrietta Ruble, Mrs. C. E. Sheehan, Thomas Sherwood, Clarence Wedge, Mrs. Mary Buell, Samuel Batchelder and William L. Squier. Samuel Batchelder, Samuel Eaton and Curtis B. Kellar were elected ruling elders, to serve respectively one, two and three years. A public service was held in the evening; a sermon was preached by Rev. A. J. Stead and the elders were ordained—the charge to them was given by Rev. Theophus Lowry. Brief addresses were made by Rev. S. G. Lowry and Rev. D. C. Lyon. For nine months after the church was organized it was supplied with preaching by different ministers. Among these were Rev. Charles Thayer, of Farmington; Rev. John L. Gage, of Kasson, and Rev. R. B. Abbott, who first preached on the 21st of March, 1869.

In accordance with his promise, Dr. Paxton secured the



assistance of his eastern friends in the erection of the church, and the Albert Lea people, too, did their share. Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Armstrong and Clarence Wedge, representing the Lucius P. Wedge estate, gave the land. The building was begun early in 1869, and was completed in August of the same year. On the fifteenth of August the church was dedicated in the morning, and the pastor was installed in the evening. The sermon was preached by Rev. W. S. Wilson, of Owatonna, the charge to the pastor was given by Rev. D. C. Lyon, and the charge to the people by Dr. Paxton. The Presbytery of Southern Minnesota was in session here on that date, and the services were conducted by Dr. Paxton. The successful completion of the structure was largely due to the liberality and energy of Augustus Armstrong, who, though not a communicant, was a wise counsellor and possessed of those qualities necessary to the success of an enterprise of this character. He was no less interested in the material growth of the church than in its spiritual, and continued one of the energetic workers for its advancement. Though in Albert Lea the names and characters of Dr. Paxton and Mr. Armstrong were best known, grateful remembrance of Mary Gelson, of New York city, should be recorded. This excellent lady was then a member of Dr. Paxton's church, and through him she became interested and sent money for the church building. She also assisted financially in the construction of the manse and again in the erection of the chapel; at another time she made a magnificent donation to the Sabbath school library.

At the dedication of the church on August 15, 1869, Rev. R. B. Abbott, who had been called here from St. Paul, was installed as pastor. Dr. Abbott came to this church in the fullness of his manhood. He had received the degrees of A. B. and A. M. from the University of Indiana, and had served the churches of Brookville and Knightstown, Indiana, as pastor before coming to Minnesota. Prior to his coming here he had been principal of the St. Paul Female Seminary. In his position here as pastor of the church he never lost sight of educational matters and never missed an opportunity to exert a wholesome influence in this direction. In the first seven years of his pastorate this church became the leading church of this Presbytery, and still maintains the place it then gained. A devout and spiritual atmosphere prevailed and many converts were added to the church. The whole number added during this pastorate of fourteen years was three hundred fifty. It does not often fall to the lot of a church to enjoy a pastorate so long, so peaceful and so successful. Dr. Abbott resigned in 1884, in the fourteenth year of his pastorate, to organize Albert Lea College, of which he was the head many years.



Dr. J. C. Irwin succeeded to the ministry here in 1884 and continued to June, 1890. He was succeeded by Dr. S. S. Cryor, during whose time the present building was projected and large additions were made to the membership. In 1897 Dr. J. L. Danner was called and the church was completed under his pastorate. He remained till 1904, when Rev. H. M. Bruins succeeded him and remained till 1907, when the present pastor, Rev. J. B. Lyle, was called here. At present the church has approximately 300 members.

The first child to be baptized in the church was Helen Ruble, on August 22, 1869. She has done excellent work as army nurse in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. The first recorded marriage was that of Margaret Emerson and Thomas W. Wilson, on January 17, 1870.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1885. In 1876 the Home and Foreign Mission was organized. The first money sent to foreign missions was in 1876, when \$10 was sent to China. Fanny Hazelton and Laura Batchelder were the first contributors. In 1885 the Home Missions and Foreign Missions took up individual existence and have since been separate societies. Several have gone from this church into the home and foreign missionary fields. Martha Bain went to her own people, the Indians. Ellen Rowley went also to her own people, the Mormons of Utah. Miss Stanley went to Pikeville, Kentucky. Juanita de la O. went to Mexico. Anna Hoge went to China. Rachael Irwin left in 1888 to teach in the Home Institute of Asheville, North Carolina, where she worked till 1890. She and her brother Morris then went to India. Ralston Irwin was the first missionary from this church, and it was here that he was ordained. He graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary in 1887. During his vacation in 1885 he prepared his first sermons and preached them at LeRoy. He received his appointment to Guatemala, Mexico, but was afterwards placed at Zacatecas, where he and his wife took up work in 1887. Because of the climate he was compelled to resign and take the church at El Paso, Texas. Later he suffered an attack of nervous prostration and died en route home. His life and work have been an inspiration to many who have since gone out for the same great work. From the foregoing accounts it will be apparent that the missionary societies and the missionary work in this church have not been in vain.

The Young Men's Bible and Social Club was organized December 12, 1893, and for five years continued an active and enthusiastic body, but at present there is no such organization in the church. The Sabbath school is in a thriving condition, with three hundred members.



**J. B. Lyle, D. D.**, is a native of Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood, attending the common schools and later the academy and the Washington and Jefferson College. He did his theological work at the Western Theological Seminary. In 1888 he was ordained and has since served many years in western Pennsylvania towns. In 1888 he married Elizabeth Marquis, who died in 1898. In 1901 he married Viola Merritt. In 1907, as has been stated, he took charge here and the continuance of his services in this community is eloquent approbation of his good work in keeping the church in an upward movement.

**The First Methodist Episcopal Church** of this city is one of the thriving churches of the Minnesota Conference, and was organized by Robert Forbes, D. D., who is now general secretary of the Home Mission and Church Extension Board. Before the organization of the church, occasional meetings were held at various places. The first sermon preached in Albert Lea by an ordained clergyman was by Rev. S. N. Phelps, a Methodist, in 1857. Isaac W. McReynolds, who, though never ordained, was the local preacher, served the Christians here at an early date. Services were held at various places. In 1858 Thomas Kirkpatrick was presiding elder and organized classes at Bear Lake, Glenville, Rice Lake and other places, as well as here. It appears that it was through the enthusiasm of Isaac McReynolds that the Methodist cause prospered in any degree in the early years, and even with his enthusiasm and leadership it succeeded only after overcoming great obstacles. He organized the Union Sunday school in 1858, and although a Methodist, he and Rev. S. G. Lowry, a Presbyterian, were the first who conducted services for the devout band of Christians who first organized a Congregational church, and later a Presbyterian church, resulting in the present splendid body of that denomination in Albert Lea.

In 1878 Rev. Robert Forbes, who had prior to this time been connected with Hamlin University, came here and with well directed efforts secured the attendance of the residents, and it was during his pastorate here that the project of a permanent organization was considered. Later a church organization was perfected, with six members. The following were the original members: J. H. Parker and wife, Z. K. Mallery and wife, Mrs. H. M. Green and Mrs. Mary B. Hyde.

In October, 1878, Rev. J. W. Klepper was assigned to this church by the conference, and he soon brought the matter of a church building to the consideration of the congregation. In the two years of Rev. Klepper's pastorate the church was built and was dedicated in 1880. This building continued to be the place



of worship until 1896, when it was replaced by the present building.

The pastors who have since served here and the period of the pastorate of each follows: Henry Frank, 1881-1883; Oliver Williams, 1883-1884; D. F. Thompson, 1884-1886; James G. Teeter, 1886-1887; H. B. Molineaux, 1887-1889; J. M. Liscomb, six months in 1889; J. N. Willey, 1889-1890; J. R. Crowley, 1890-1891; Alfred Cressy, 1891-1895; George A. Cook, 1895-1897; R. M. Joscelyn, 1897-1899; E. R. Lathrop, 1890-1900; John Watson, 1900-1902; W. M. Pickard, 1902-1904; F. E. White, 1904-1905; G. H. Patterson, 1905-1907; S. E. Ryan, 1907-1910; E. C. Heckman served a few months in 1910, and was succeeded by Rev. Irvin B. Wood, who is in charge of the church at the present time.

The Ladies' Aid Society has long been one of the strong organizations for the assistance in Methodist church work, and is at present in a prosperous condition, with Mrs. M. L. Robbins as president.

The Epworth League gives the young people the opportunity they desire for Christian work of a character to insure their continued interest and present help to the regular church work. The Sunday school was organized before the regular church, and with some periods of interruption in the earlier years, the school has been of growing strength and success in the work of its field. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society has regular meetings and annually money is sent to such of the foreign fields as seem most in need of the help which it is possible for this society to extend. This society also makes it a part of its work to keep up the interest of the congregation in the foreign mission work, and such opportunities as offer in the way of lectures by returned missionaries and others are made of service to the cause through the good offices of this group of workers. The home missions are receiving their full share of attention from the Queen Esther Circle. This society is composed largely of the young women of the church, who have interested themselves in this particular line of endeavor, and the work progresses along the same general lines as that of the foreign missionary society.

**Rev. Irwin B. Wood**, who is at present pastor here, is a native of Minneapolis, who has completed the high schools of that city and has a degree from Hamlin University, entirely through his own efforts. He entered the Northern Minnesota Conference in 1901. He came here in 1910, from Dover, Minnesota. He was married in 1906 to Frances Palmer.

**Zion's German Methodist Episcopal Church** had its beginning in 1869, when the local field was supplied by Rev. William Hildebrand, and Dr. Kopp, district superintendent. The first board of



trustees organized August 20, 1870, in schoolhouse 57, with the following members: George Drommerhausen, W. Schneider, Nicholas Ott, Claus Flindt and C. Drews. The Albert Lea church was the outcome of the Pickerel Lake German Methodist Episcopal church, which was built under the pastorate of the Rev. Aug. Biebighauser in the year 1873. At Pickerel Lake the church has an active congregation in good working order in all the different departments. It has a live Sunday school of from forty to forty-five scholars, an Epworth League with a membership of twenty-five and a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with twenty-three members. Zion's church was erected in 1886-87, at Albert Lea, under the pastorate of Rev. John Hauck. The membership of the church is eighty-seven. There are twenty-five pupils in the Sunday school and fourteen members in the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. The church also has a prosperous Epworth League. The present trustees are George Drommerhausen, Claus Flindt, Edward H. Eberhardt, Charles Lenz and Dr. J. P. von Berg. Following is a list of the clergymen who have served the two congregations: William Hildebrand, 1869-70; J. Hansen, 1870-72; Aug. Biebighauser, 1872-74; A. H. Koerner, 1874-76; J. C. Jahn, 1876-79; C. Stellner, 1879-81; A. H. Koerner, 1881-83; Dan. Pfaff, 1883-85; John Hauck, 1885-89; Jacob Durbahn, 1889-94; Aug. Krienke, 1894-95; F. J. Preine, 1895-99; Fred Brinkman, 1889-1901; Hy. Clement, 1901-06; C. A. Borchard, 1906-10; William E. Baumgarten, 1910 to the present time. Rev. Baumgarten is a devout and energetic man, greatly beloved by his congregations.

**Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal.** The first Episcopal service held in Albert Lea was on January 28, 1861, and was conducted by Bishop Whipple, in the school house. A second meeting was held on the day following. No other services were attempted until 1868 when on April 28 services were conducted in the court house which at that time was a favorite meeting place for various purposes. In August of the same year Rev. S. W. Gibson, of Austin, took charge here but did not conduct regular services. Rev. Gibson, Rev. Tanner, of Owatonna and Rev. S. S. Hurleson, of Blue Earth City, held occasional meetings for several years. In 1876 a mission organization was perfected and Rev. R. R. Goudy took charge of the mission work. The first confirmation was by Bishop Whipple, April 17, 1877, in the Presbyterian church. November 17, 1878, a petition was sent to Bishop Whipple asking his consent to organize a parish. On December 9, the same year, the organization was perfected with Dr. G. W. Barch as senior warden, A. E. Hazzard, junior warden, and W. W. Williams, R. M. Palmer, Thomas H. Armstrong as vestrymen. The church was named the Church of the Good



Shepherd. In the latter part of 1879 Waseka and Albert Lea were united under charge of Rev. R. D. Erwin. In 1880 the Congregational church was bought and the first services were conducted in this building November 7, 1880. In 1881 Rev. W. R. Powell took charge of Waseka and Albert Lea parishes, and remained till 1884 when he was succeeded by Rev. R. R. Goudy, who was here three years. The first building having been lost through a mortgage, a new church was erected during Rev. Goudy's ministry, largely through the generosity of Henry D. Arey. This building was consecrated by Bishop Gilbert, March 3, 1887, and the name was changed to Christ Church. Rev. A. Baily Hill was rector from 1887 to 1890 and was succeeded by M. J. Bywater, who remained till 1893. From the latter date till June, 1896, students from Faribault supplied the pulpit. From 1896 to 1898 Rev. D. F. Thompson was rector and was succeeded by Rev. H. D. Chambers, who was here until the time of his resignation in 1902. In 1900 the parish bought a dwelling house and placed it on the church grounds and fitted up as a rectory. During the period the church was improved and enlarged. After Rev. Chambers resigned, Rev. George H. Mueller, the present rector, was called here. During his ministry the parish has grown and prospered. It soon became, and has continued, self supporting. Many beautiful and useful ornamental articles of church and altar furniture have been added, the rectory enlarged and the grounds improved. Since 1901 the membership has more than doubled.

In 1878 the Ladies' Guild was organized and has continued one of the very helpful societies of the church. St. Hilda's Guild and a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary are also strong organizations.

Rev. George H. Mueller is a native of Germany, being born in Holstein, March 25, 1857. He was educated in the gymnasium in his native town and at the Seabury Divinity school, Faribault, Minn. In 1886 he returned to Berlin and studied one year. He was ordained in 1881 by Bishop Whipple. In 1884 he married and his first wife died in 1900. March 2, 1902, he married Emma B. Nelson.

**The First Church of Christ, Scientist,** is a branch of the Mother Church of Boston. The first meetings in this county were held in 1894 and for the following three years they were held at irregular intervals. In the year 1897 an organization was perfected with Mrs. Helen R. Mitchell as first reader; Mrs. Ella Wilkinson, second reader; Mrs. Mary Rolfson, clerk, and Andrew Rolfson, Hans Peterson, Sarah Peck, Florence Cure and Ella Wilkinson, directors. After organizing meetings were, for a time, held in the Masonic hall, and were subsequently held in



other convenient places. They are now held in the Syndicate block, where a reading room is kept open a large part of the day and evening hours. The reading room is a very important part of this church work, the intention being that knowledge of the church will insure members, and for this purpose a continuous campaign of education is carried on. A building fund has been started and it is hoped by the members that a few years more will find them appropriately housed. The membership is at present forty-four. The first reader now is Mrs. Mary Rolfson.

**The First Baptist Church** is affiliated with the Central Association and the Minnesota Baptist State Convention. The first regular preaching services were conducted by Rev. D. H. Palmer in the school house, in 1859. Rev. Amory Gale, the first state missionary, also held services here and so much interest was manifested that it was decided to organize a church. A council for that purpose was appointed and convened on September 29, for the perfecting of an organization. Rev. Gilead Dodge was chosen moderator and Rev. D. H. Palmer, clerk. The church was duly organized and the following named persons admitted to membership: Eunice Jennings, Lydia C. Jennings, Charles Green, Sarah Green, Jeremiah Walker, Mrs. J. Walker, Margaret E. (Wedge) Morin, John Wood, Emeline A. Wood, Reuben C. Cady, Rodah Lowe, Alden G. Douglass and Winnie Pride, with H. D. Palmer as pastor. On the following day Mrs. Stage was baptized and admitted to full membership. Elder Cornelius Smith was the next pastor and took up the work in October, 1868. After Cornelius Smith left the church was for a time without a pastor, but was supplied by Elder Weeden. In 1874 the matter of a church building was agitated, the parsonage having been previously built. Services at this time were held in the Masonic hall. The time was ripe for the church building and with unusually rapid work the building was planned, built and occupied, and on November 1, 1874, it was dedicated, this during the pastorate of Amory Weaver. The building was of attractive design and good workmanship. The debt on the structure at time of completion was considerable, but through the generosity of the members and their friends this debt was soon reduced. In the following twenty years of church growth the building became inadequate to the needs of the congregation, but not until 1904 was the proposition of a new building seriously considered. In 1905 the trustees were authorized to purchase the present church site on Clark street and the building committee was instructed to proceed with plans for the building on the newly purchased site. The present attractive structure was erected at a cost of \$25,000 and was dedicated entirely free of debt in November, 1906. Since that time the church has been



one of growing and strengthening good in this community. As has been stated Rev. Amos Weaver was the first resident pastor in 1873. Since his pastorate the following pastors have been in charge: Norman Hoyt from 1875 to 1883, H. M. Jones from 1883 to 1887, F. M. Archer from 1887 to 1889, Samuel Gorman from 1889 to 1891. From 1891 to 1895 the church was without a pastor, but in the latter year came R. C. Mosher, who was succeeded by F. F. Dewett and in 1908 Rev. A. L. Kinter relieved him and remained till 1911. At the time of this writing the church is without a pastor. Rev. C. D. Belden has been a helpful factor in the church for many years. Several helpful societies, the membership of which is made up entirely of church members, have proved to be of great assistance in advancing the good work of the whole organization. Among the most helpful are the following: The Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, the Men's Association, Baptist Young People's Union, the Light Bearers, and a Young Ladies' Missionary Society.

**The Dano-Norwegian Baptist Church** had services from a very early time but was not organized nor did it have regular services until 1874. In the early part of that year steps were taken to perfect an organization. Having met the requirements, on all necessary preliminaries, eleven members formed the church. The necessity for a building soon presented itself and a building committee was appointed. On July 2, 1876, the church building was completed and was on that day dedicated by Rev. Ostergreen and Rev. Lunde. This original building was enlarged in 1888. The eleven original members were Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Jason, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Mattsen, Marie Mattsen, Soren P. Peterson, Nels Mattsen, Jens Lee, and Mrs. Lars Arnstrom. Rev. A. Carlsen was made pastor and also served some other churches in this vicinity, one at Clark's Grove and Alden. Mr. Carlsen was pastor five years. He worked faithfully and well and never received remuneration for his services as pastor. From 1879 to 1885 there was no regular pastor, but the following served at various times: C. Carlsen, Peter Daniels, E. Olsen, A. Brant. In January, 1885, Rev. R. Christopherson was called here as pastor and he remained till 1890. During this pastorate the church enjoyed a period of substantial growth. In January, 1891, Rev. N. S. Christiansen came here and was in charge of the church three years. He was succeeded by Rev. H. A. Rekenbach, who was here six years, during which time the membership was reduced from 165 to 150. There were, however, several reasons for this apparent falling off in the membership. The reorganization of the First Baptist Church was the occasion for a number of members withdrawing to unite with them. In January, 1900, Rev. O. H. Skitheim continued the work



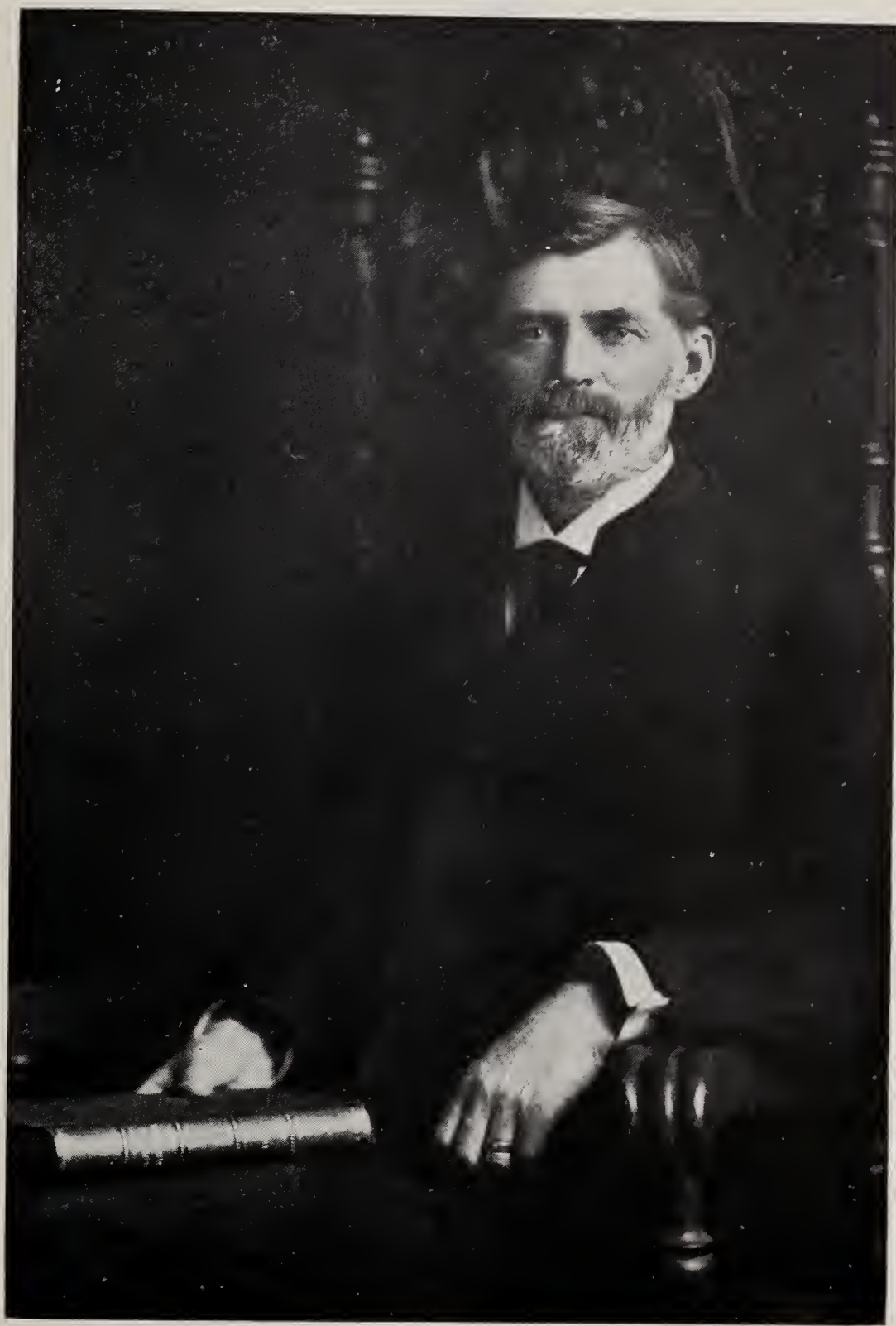
so well begun by his predecessors, and remained in charge nearly six years. During his pastorate the membership was increased to 203 members. From July, 1905, to September, 1908, the church was served by Rev. N. H. Byers. He was succeeded by Rev. August Broholm, who has since been in charge of the work here and is successfully advancing the work. Rev. Broholm is of the opinion that the three churches of this denomination at Clark's Grove, Alden and Albert Lea have a larger membership than any other county of this denomination in any state of the United States.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1883 and has since been one of the strong organizations of the church. The Sunday school was organized January 13, 1878, with C. Carlsen as superintendent and P. H. Hansen as secretary. The school has continued in good working condition and is a healthy financial asset of the church.

**The Swedish Baptist Church** was organized in 1883. In the late eighties a church was erected, which is still used. The records of this church have not been preserved. The present pastor, Rev. John Lundin, came here some three months ago, and his devoted and energetic work has endeared him to the people with whom he labors. The Berglund family was an active factor in the organization of this church.

**The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church**, of Albert Lea, is of the Iowa Synod. Its parent church in this county dates from 1861. The Albert Lea congregation was originally organized in 1868 under the guidance of Rev. E. Wulfsberg, who served this congregation and three others in this county. The work of the four churches proved too great for him and in 1874 Rev. O. H. Smeby was called here to assist him. For two years Rev. Smeby continued as assistant and 1876, at the division of the parish, became pastor of the congregations at Albert Lea, Hayward and Oakland. The latter two have been cut off, and Rev. Smeby still continues as pastor of the Albert Lea church. The present building was erected in 1873, and with excellent judgment and wise foresight was planned and built larger than was at that time required. So well did those builders provide for the growth of the congregation that the original building with some alterations and enlargement has been adequate for the needs to the present time and will no doubt serve for some time to come, not only as a place for worship but one of which the city may well be proud. In 1879 the dedication took place and since that time has enjoyed a healthy growth and is now one of the great and powerful organizations for good in this county. There are at present 450 communicant members. Both the English and Norwegian languages are spoken. In 1893 a commodious and at-





REV. OLUF H. SMEBY





tractive parsonage was erected at 219 Fourth street and since its completion has been occupied by Rev. Smeby and family, he having been here for more than thirty-seven years. Among the very helpful societies of the church are the following: The Ladies' Aid Society, Young People's Society and the Men's Society.

Among the early members of the church were: Carl Christopherson, Peder Sneve, Jacob Bergerson, John Erickson, Jens Garness, Frederick Frost, John Gullickson, Mathias Nelson, Even Nelson, Peter Nelson, Ole Ellingson, O. P. Hanson, Jens Aasted, Ole S. Hove, Gullick Hauge, Daniel Peterson, Ingebrigt Hammer, Nels Dahl, Albert Mickelson, Charles Kittelson, Martin Olson, Ole E. Olson, Gilbert Guldbrandson, John A. Anderson, Lars Knudson, A. L. Aasgaard, B. H. Skaug, N. L. Nelson, Ole Tang, Hans Haukness, Ole N. Garness, H. A. Hanson, August Peterson, A. L. Tockle, Martin Hanson, P. Scotland, Ingebrigt Svendson, K. G. Lee, Ole Hammer, Michael Johnson, Vegger Guldbrandson and others.

The officers of the various institutions of the church are: Official board—Rev. O. H. Smeby, pastor; Solva Strom, organist; Alfred Christopherson, treasurer; S. S. Tviet, secretary; P. A. Peterson, sexton. Trustees—Aleck Erickson, J. M. Nelson, O. J. Dammen, Edward Ellingson. Lutheran Sunday school—C. T. Helgeson, superintendent. Ladies' Aid Society—Mrs. Oluf Hellie, president; Mrs. Carl Hallum, vice president; Mrs. Charles Lembke, treasurer. Officers of the Young People's Society—Thora Fossum, president; Anette Overn, secretary; Otto Fossum, treasurer. Men's Society—Ole K. Hellie, president; J. G. Johnson vice president; Edward Fretheim, secretary; Aleck Erickson, treasurer.

**Rev. O. H. Smeby** is a native of Wisconsin, but his parents moved to Iowa soon after his birth and there he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. Later he attended the Luther college at Decorah, Iowa, and completed his theological studies in St. Louis. He was ordained in Chicago in 1874 and came directly to this place, where he has continuously labored. In 1876 he married Marie Carlson and their lives have been consecrated to the upbuilding of their church and the extension of influence in all good works.

**The Salem English Evangelical Lutheran Church**, of Albert Lea. The Evangelical Lutherans, as a rule, have a tenacious love for their church because of its history, going back to 1517 when the match was struck which kindled the fire of all Protestantism, and to 1530 when the great Confession of Augsburg was formally presented to the Emperor and the diet. The previous year the Evangelicals, called Lutherans out of scorn, presented a protest at Spire, against certain abuses in the church and were



hence called Protestants, so that Archbishop Bramhall rightly admits that "The name Protestants is one to which others have no right but by communion with the Lutherans." Added to this history they have a complete and thorough system of doctrine and a course of spiritual teaching which has borne some wonderful fruit at home and abroad. For this reason and not out of bitterness or bigotry, Lutheran parents wish to have their children receive all the advantages in spiritual things that they have received. When, therefore, those using a foreign tongue in their service, saw that their children needed the old faith in the English language it became necessary to establish an English Lutheran church, as the Norwegian, Danish and German churches, though having some English in their services, did not have enough to supply the demand. As a result many of the homes were being split up in their church life, some going to one, some to another house of worship, whilst the parents clung to their own dear old faith. This led several of the leading citizens of Albert Lea to feel that a purely English church of the Lutheran faith was a necessity, and Julius E. Nelson opened correspondence with Field Missionary Frank E. Jensen, of the English Synod of the Northwest, who was finally persuaded to meet those interested at the home of Judge A. U. Mayland, 425 East Third street, on Thursday, April 18, 1907; the following evening at the home of J. E. Nelson, 623 Fountain street, the constitution was adopted and on Wednesday, May 1, the first church council was elected at the home of Martin Wulff, 914 Oak street, at which time forty-five charter members signed the constitution, as follows:

Hon. and Mrs. A. U. Mayland, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Nelson, Hon. and Mrs. C. L. Swensen, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Okre, Len H. Okre, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Haugen, Clara B. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Wittmer, Mr. and Mrs. Lumen Land, Mr. and Mrs. John Monsen, Adelia Monsen, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Wulff, Myrtle Wulff, Julia Solberg, Mrs. J. J. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Clement, Cora M. Clement, Erwin P. Nelson, Russell Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Olson, Oscar Olson, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hoyne, Byron Hoyne, Mrs. Anna M. Grinager, Martin Solberg, Edith Subby, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sorenson, Sheriff Oscar Subby, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Subby, and Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Friske.

The first services were held on Sunday, May 5, 1907, in the Universalist church on West Clark street, opposite the park; which was rented for \$15 per month at which time the Sunday school was organized with thirty-two pupils and ten officers and teachers, Julius E. Nelson being the first superintendent. At this first service also the first church council was installed, consisting of L. J. Okre, who died by accident October 28, 1908; J. E. Nelson; Judge Mayland; Mayor Swensen; Henry Wittmer, who re-



moved to Kiester, November, 1910; and Lumen Land, who resigned June 16, 1908. Edward Olson, N. C. Sorenson and John Monsen were subsequently elected to fill the vacancies.

July 10, 1907, the articles of incorporation were finally filed and on the twenty-third of the same month a call extended to the Rev. John Keehley, of Minneapolis, to become the first regular pastor. The call was accepted and he entered upon his duties on the first of the following November.

On February 1, 1910, the church and lots were bought from the Universalists and on the fifteenth of that month Rev. Keehley presented his resignation as pastor to accept a call to be missionary in Milwaukee, Wis. This resignation was finally accepted to take effect June 26. On the eighteenth of July a call was extended to the Rev. Alexander J. D. Haupt, D. D., of Pittsburgh, Pa., which was accepted, and he began his labors on Sunday, October 9, 1910. The congregation numbers among its members some of the most prominent and promising citizens. Its Sunday school has the full graded system of the Evangelical Lutheran church with Normal and Bible classes, while the pastor has his classes for the children in the Catechism and mid-week study in Bible doctrine, all of which are well attended.

The congregation is blessed with two very active societies, the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Society and the Young People's Luther League. The officers of the former organization are: Mrs. C. L. Swenson, president; Mrs. A. U. Mayland, vice president; Mrs. N. C. Sorenson, recording secretary; Mrs. Lumen Land, treasurer; Mrs. L. J. Okre, treasurer of the sinking fund. This organization has accomplished great good for the church in its short history of four years. The Luther League is an organization for the moral and social improvement of its members with religious, topical meetings on Sunday evenings which are well attended and the papers and discussions of a high order. Otto Lichtenstein is president; Clara Peterson, vice president; Julia Solberg, secretary, and Leander H. Okre, treasurer. The League numbers twenty-five members.

In 1891 the several English Lutheran missions and congregations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota decided to form a synod for the better prosecution of the great work they felt called upon to do. This was effected in the fall of that year in Memorial English Lutheran church, of St. Paul, Minn., and a few years later this synod, under the name of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, united with the general body known as the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America. This general body does its work through the local synods aided by its general boards and publication house. It extends from Boston to Portland and from the



Canadian possessions to the Mason and Dixon line and even beyond. It now numbers about one million baptized members under the care of 1,600 ministers. This general body was organized at Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1867.

**The Trinity Danish Evangelical Congregation** of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran church in America, was organized February 24, 1877, and the first meetings were held in the school house of district 54. The first preacher was Rev. Jens Danielsen and the first trustees were Hans Anderson, C. Anderson and Christ Jensen. The congregation prospered, and in 1879 erected a church on Winter street. The present edifice on West College street was dedicated in the spring of 1885. The Rev. R. J. Ostegaard was called in February, 1885, and served for one year. Rev. G. B. Christiansen served from May, 1886 to 1890, and was followed in October of the latter year by Rev. P. Nielsen. Rev. Nielson died in 1891 and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery west of the city. Rev. L. Johnson came in April, 1892, and served until 1898, being followed by Rev. J. J. Kildsig from 1898 to 1901 and Rev. H. O. Frimodt from 1901 to 1904. Then came the present pastor, Rev. Olaf Rye Olsen, the efficient and devoted pastor, who is still serving. The officers of the various church organizations are as follows: Trustees—P. Clausen, N. C. Anderson, Hans A. Thorp, H. J. Mortensen, H. P. Hansen and H. Martin Hansen. Deacons—P. Clausen, Chr. Berthelsen, N. P. Larsen, L. P. H. Highby. Ladies' Society—President, Mrs. N. C. Andersen; cashier, Mrs. P. Clausen; secretary, Mrs. James Andersen. Young People's Society—President, Rev. O. Rye Olsen; cashier, Christ Hansen; secretary, Christ M. Jensen. Sunday School—President, L. P. H. Highby; vice president, P. Clausen; secretary, Jens P. Jensen. The parsonage is located in the lot west of the church, and was erected in 1887. Two years later it was enlarged. It is a two story building of good size and modern equipment.

**Rev. Olaf Rye Olsen** was born in Denmark, July 6, 1867, and came to the United States in 1897. He was called to the pastorate of Trinity Church in March, 1904.

**The German Lutheran Church** is located at 503 South Washington street, and was erected in 1899. The church has a small and devout congregation, but no resident pastor.

**The Seventh Day Adventists** have a church on South First avenue, west, at the southeast corner of William street.

**The Church of St. Theodore.** (Roman Catholic). The devout Catholics in this vicinity received spiritual consolation in the early days through the visits of several pioneer priests, who held services, celebrated mass, baptized and confirmed children, and performed other priestly rites. In 1877 a suitable edifice



was erected on the present site of the Newton house, southeast corner of Newton and Main streets. The church was dedicated December 9, 1877, by Archbishop Ireland, assisted by Rev. P. Riordan and Rev. Theo Venn. May 9, 1893, the present church, on East Clark street, was dedicated. West of this church a four-room brick school house has been erected in 1911, which is used as a Parochial School, in charge of the devout Sisters. Among the early pastors of the church may be mentioned Rev. Theodore Venn and Rev. P. F. Dargnault. The Rev. James Fleming, for several years pastor in the eighties, is remembered by Catholics and Protestants alike, for his saintly character, his devout works, his polished manners, and the interest which he took in the development of Albert Lea. The present pastor, Rev. James E. Donovan, has been here for some years.

**First Congregational Church.** The early history of Congregationalism in this city is identical with that of Presbyterianism. Some years after the Presbyterian Church was organized here, it was determined to make an effort to also establish a Congregational body. Accordingly, sometime in the seventies, Mrs. Ruben Williams took a leading part in raising funds among local people for the erection of the Congregational Church. Most of the money, however, came from outside of the city. A very attractive structure was completed. The first pastor was Rev. Drew, who, after considering the conditions here thoroughly, became a Presbyterian, going to a pulpit in Preston. Rev. James D. Todd was the next Congregational clergyman here, but he too resigned and went to the service of the Presbyterian ministry. The last pastor was the Rev. Chalmers. When he left, services were discontinued, and the church building is now owned by the Trinity Lutheran congregation.

**The First Universalist Society** of Albert Lea held religious services in the interest of this form of belief for some time at irregular intervals in the court house, but on May 14, 1870, pursuant to notice, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing. William C. Pratt was chosen chairman and Alonzo Brown secretary. The committee on constitution, which had been previously appointed, reported a constitution and articles of faith which were unanimously adopted. This document was comprised of twenty-one articles. The following officers were elected: Moderator, C. R. Ransom; clerk, E. C. Stacy; treasurer, C. R. Ransom; trustees, E. C. Stacy, Alonzo Brown and M. M. Luce. March 4, 1872, a meeting was held to consider building a house of worship. At this meeting a committee consisting of E. C. Stacy, Charles Levens, Frederick Cochran, A. H. McMillan and J. M. Pratt was appointed to solicit funds for a building. Progress in this work was slow and it was not until more than

four years had passed that the erection of a building was possible. In the fall of 1876 the work was begun and early in 1877 "Our Fathers' Chapel" was completed and christened. On April 22, 1879, articles of incorporation were filed in the register of deeds' office. The first preaching was by Rev. Woodbridge, who was succeeded by Frederick Cochran, A. Vedder and G. S. Gowdy. For want of interest and numbers for the work necessary to the success of the Universalists the work was some years ago abandoned, and since that time there has been no active organization of this society here.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

### ALBERT LEA FRATERNITIES.

**Many Beautiful Lodge Halls in the City—Masonic Orders—Odd Fellows—Knights of Pythias—Elks—Eagles—Owls—Commercial Travelers—Fraternal Insurance Orders—Patriotic Orders—Scandinavian Lodges—By John F. D. Meighen.**

The sociability and spirit of brotherliness which exists in Albert Lea is shown by the number of societies and clubs that flourish here. Practically all the standard organizations are represented, one of the local lodges dating back to the fifties. In order to furnish a meeting place for this large number of orders halls have been equipped as follows: The Masonic Temple, which occupies the entire second floor of the building at the southwest corner of Broadway and Water streets; the hall and rooms of the Danish Brotherhood, which occupies the entire second floor of their building at the northwest corner of Clark and Newton streets; the Castle Hall of the Knights of Pythias, which occupies the entire floor of the Wiegand building at the southwest corner of Broadway and William streets; the Elks' hall and club rooms, at the northeast corner of Broadway and Main streets; the Odd Fellows Hall in the Broadway Theater building at the corner of Broadway and College streets; the club rooms and hall of the Catholic Order of Foresters in the basement floor of the building at the northwest corner of Broadway and Clark streets; the Yoeman's Hall, which occupies the entire third floor of the Hewitt building at the northwest corner of Broadway and William streets. All these halls are conveniently located, nicely furnished and well adapted for the purpose for which they are intended.

In this chapter it has been the aim to give briefly the history of the leading fraternities of Albert Lea. The societies whose histories do not appear here are those whose secretaries have failed to furnish the desired information.

### MASONIC ORDERS.

Masonry in Freeborn county dates from the fall of 1855, when George S. Ruble came to Albert Lea. The craft is now represented here by four orders: Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.; Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, Royal Arch Masons; Apollo

Commandery, No. 12, Knights Templar and Albert Lea Halcyon Chapter, No. 21, O. E. S.

**Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.**, received its dispensation October 1, 1857; held its first formal convocation November 14, 1857, and is now working under a charter granted October 27, 1858. The inception of the idea of a lodge here was in the winter of 1855-56 when George S. Ruble, after leaving Albert Lea in the fall of 1855, stopped at Mitchell, Iowa on his way to his former home in Wisconsin. There he visited Capt. A. W. White, whom he had previously met at a Masonic convention. Ruble tried to persuade Captain White to locate in Freeborn county, and, as an inducement, suggested that a Masonic lodge could be started, with the second story of a store he proposed building, as a lodge room. In March, 1856, Captain White came to Freeborn county, located a claim in the town of Pickerel Lake, went back to Mitchell to close up his business, and in May brought his family to this county. No other Masons arrived in Albert Lea that year. In June, 1857, came C. N. Norton and J. W. Brownsell, both well versed in Masonry. After diligent search, George S. Hayward and W. K. Boyles, in Hayward, and Nelson Snyder, in Riceland, were located, thus making the number requisite for a dispensation.

During the summer of 1857, A. B. Webber built what was known as the Webber House, on the corner now occupied by Nelson Bros'. block. Arrangements were made with him for the use, as a lodge room, of the room afterward known as the ball room of the hotel. While waiting for the building to be completed, and before making application for a dispensation, informal meetings were held in the upper story of a building erected by A. C. Wedge for a drug store on a lot on the west side of Broadway, between Clark and William street. At these meetings plans were made for the organization, and three officers were selected to be named in the dispensation. The name was also selected, though through an error, the name appears in some of the grand lodge reports as the Evening Star Lodge. In this unfinished room, with kegs for seats and boxes for desks, the first legal meeting under the dispensation was held November 14, 1857. The three officers named in the dispensation were: A. W. White, W. M.; Charles N. Norton, S. W.; John W. Brownsell, J. W. The original members of the lodge were: A. W. White, W. M.; Charles N. Norton, S. W.; John W. Brownsell, J. W.; George S. Hayward, treasurer; W. K. Boyles, secretary; George S. Ruble, S. D.; Nelson Snyder, J. D. The second meeting was held at the Webber House. At this meeting A. B. Webber applied for membership, and, in due course of time, was the



first man to be initiated into the mysteries of Masonry in Freeborn county.

The lodge possesses the secretary's record of every meeting from the "called meeting of Western Star Lodge under dispensation held in the village of Albert Lea, Minnesota territory, November 14, 1857, A. L. 5857" down to the present time. Much of the history and development of the city of Albert Lea may be read between the lines of these records. On March 24, 1858, petitions from Dr. A. C. Wedge (one of the contributors to this volume and still a member of Western Star Lodge) and John W. Heath were received. On May 26 following they became entered apprentices. At that same meeting George Watson was also initiated and A. B. Webber was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. That May evening must certainly have been a busy one for this little lodge of seven members.

August 15, 1858, petitions for membership were received from H. D. Brown, A. Armstrong and William Morin, three of the most active spirits in the upbuilding of Albert Lea. They each became Master Masons before the close of the year, and each took active part in the various Masonic bodies in Albert Lea during the balance of their lives, Armstrong dying in 1873, Morin in 1887 and Brown in 1901.

The lodge was prosperous from the start and men from many neighboring points made application for membership. An important meeting was held September 27, 1858, and the E. A. degree conferred on two; the F. C. degree on two and the master's degree on two. December 1, 1858, the petition of Francis Hall, much better known as "Frank" was received and shortly after he became a member.

The early records show the filing of charges of un-Masonic conduct quite frequently and at other times committees were appointed to adjust "differences" between brothers.

It was soon found that the quarters were inadequate for the increasing membership, and plans were made with J. W. Brown-sell for the fitting up of a room over his wagon shop, on the present site of the postoffice. The room was 16x30 feet, and the lodge built a small ante room at a cost of \$46.56. November 17, 1858, the lodge organized under the charter signed October 27, of that year.

The lodge continued to prosper until the fall of 1861, when the war came. Many members enlisted and for a period of three years little was done. From November 13, 1861, to June 26, 1862, not a meeting was held, and for three years no degrees were conferred. The close of the war brought good times again. The membership increased and larger quarters were again necessary. The first brick building on the west side of Broadway



was built in 1870 (the building now occupied by the Bijou Theatre) and the second story of the building was rented by the lodge, the first meeting being held there March 8, 1871. The secretary's record of that meeting reads in part as follows: "A stated communication of Western Star Lodge No. 26, was held in the new hall over White's store on Wednesday evening, March 8, A. D. 1871, A. L. 5871. Officers present: Brothers H. D. Brown, W. M.; F. B. Fobes, S. W.; R. Williams, J. W.; W. Morin, treasurer; R. B. Skinner, secretary; D. K. Stacy, S. D.; G. Ball, J. D.; I. Botsford, tyler. Brothers present: S. Eaton, A. W. White, A. H. Bartlett, D. J. Bickford, T. J. Sheehan, N. T. Sandberg, C. R. Ransom, A. C. Wedge, A. G. Wedge."

With the rapid growth of the order still larger quarters were needed and C. M. Hewitt added a third story to his store building at the northwest corner of Broadway and William streets, for this purpose. The first meeting there was held September 10, 1873. Soon after occupying the rooms a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was instituted (1874), later a Commandery (1879), and still later a Chapter of the Eastern Star (1888). The steady growth of the orders made still further enlargements in quarters necessary and the quarters now occupied by the Elks' Hall and club rooms, at the northeast corner of Broadway and Main street, were fitted up at an expense of \$1,500.00 for the use of the Masonic orders. Brothers F. M. Crane and John S. Chapman were leading spirits in arranging and decorating the new quarters. In the Grand Chapter proceedings for 1895 the Grand High Priest says of these quarters: "On February 6, 1895, I officially visited Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, and installed the officers. This chapter is now meeting in the new Masonic Hall fitted up by the Masons of that place, the chapter paying its share of the expense. They can justly claim as fine quarters as any chapter in the state, the furnishing being equal to that in the best lodge rooms in the Twin Cities." The first meeting in the present Masonic Temple at the southwest corner of Broadway and Water street was held Tuesday evening, March 1, 1910.

As a result of the labors of Leslie A. Hanes, P. W. M., during 1905-1906, portraits of every Worshipful Master from the institution of the lodge until 1904 were placed upon its walls. Another valuable treasure resulting from the labor of Brother Hanes is a framed collection of the photographs of the seven charter members which today adorns the ante room in the new Masonic Temple. At the same time he obtained photographs of nearly the entire membership of the lodge, which grouped in frames, now hang upon the walls of the ante room and parlors.

In the beginning the annual dues were \$2.00 per year. Begin-



ning with October 1, 1869, they were increased to \$3.00 per year, and finally in 1911 were made \$4.00 per year.

Time and space do not permit adequate comment on the faithfulness of the more active members of the organization during its fifty-four years of life.

A volume might be written about the activities of George W. Geesey, P. W. M., a resident of London township, who, during the years he was Worshipful Master, made the long journey by team each meeting night from his home to Albert Lea, and who, during the latter years of his life, acted as Master at each Masonic funeral service and whose sons are still members of Western Star Lodge.

Over the tyler's door in the present Masonic Temple hangs a photograph of William Lowe, much better known as "Bill Lowe," who for a score of years and more acted as tyler for the blue lodge and sentinel for the chapter and commandery.

It would be equally appropriate if a portrait of Ole J. Wulff were hung over the secretary's desk, as during a like period of time he has been secretary of the blue lodge, and during much of that time recorder for the chapter and commandery as well.

A. W. White, the first Worshipful Master of the lodge, remained one of its members until his death, July 13, 1907, when he was buried with Masonic honors by the organization he had labored so faithfully to build up.

For several years the lodge enjoyed the distinction of having among its active members a grandfather, Charles R. Ransom, his son, Robert G. Ransom, and his grandson, Charles Arthur Ransom.

For more than thirty years Dr. G. W. Barck has been organist. During that time no member has been initiated, passed and raised without Dr. Barck acting as organist in the conferring of at least one of the three degrees, and usually in each of them.

On January 22, 1908, Western Star Lodge, No. 26, conferred the Master Mason degree at the Grand Lodge meeting in St. Paul, the following officers acting: Worshipful master, John F. D. Meighen; senior warden, Luman J. H. Land; junior warden, Charles M. Wilkinson; senior deacon, Bert R. May; junior deacon, William J. Beal; senior steward, William H. May; junior steward, Charles E. Brainerd. The three craftsmen: Nels C. Sorenson, William C. Mitchell, Charles W. Turnbull. The twelve craftsmen: Frank A. Snow, Lester W. Spicer, Lesley S. Whitcomb, Charles E. Brainerd, Daniel Walker, Alex McKee, Andrew Boyum, Frank Skinner, George L. Sterns, Milton P. Fuller, Louis J. Okre, Jacob P. Peterson. Its rendition of the ritualistic work received high commendation.

During the year 1909 the present Masonic Temple at the cor-



ner of Broadway and Water street was erected. The building committee were: Joseph P. Hurley, Frank W. Barlow, Nels C. Sorenson, Curtis B. Kellar, Thomas W. Wilson and John F. D. Meighen. By an agreement entered into with the Albert Lea Fire Department Relief Association, all the portion of the building above the second floor joists, together with the stairway and right of support, belongs to the lodge.

The total cost of the building enclosed, but not including cost of lot, heating, plumbing, wiring or partitions, was \$17,708.86, of which the lodge paid \$5,228.55.

The total expense of completing the new quarters, unfurnished, amounted to substantially \$10,500, and was largely borne by a \$7,500 bond issue, purchased by members of the lodge, drawing 4 per cent interest, due on or before twenty years from date, and in any event on the death of the original bondholder.

The lodge room was furnished during 1910 at an additional expense of \$1,300, the committee in charge being Charles E. Brainerd, Lesley S. Whitcomb and William J. Beal.

The first member to die was W. K. Boyles, who passed away August 14, 1858. In the minutes of the September 1, 1858, meeting we find this statement: "The report of committee to draft resolutions on the death of Brother W. K. Boyles was received and adopted. Motion carried that said resolution be published in the 'Bancroft Pioneer,' and copy of the same be deposited in the lodge, also copies be forwarded to the friends of the deceased." The Masonic funeral ritual was first spoken in Freeborn county at the grave of Rev. D. H. Palmer, a Baptist clergyman, who died at Glenville, September 19, 1872. The lodge members drove to Glenville by team and the burial was had in the old cemetery there, near the site of the present Rock Island railway station. Brother Palmer was made a Mason in Western Star Lodge on May 10, 1865.

Since the institution of the lodge sixty-two members have died, as follows: W. K. Boyles, August 14, 1858; C. M. Olson, November 27, 1870; Rev. D. H. Palmer, September 19, 1872; Augustus Armstrong, August 18, 1873; Harvey Patridge, August 7, 1875; D. O. McNeil, October 7, 1876; William Elliman, November 23, 1878; John Heath, May 18, 1883; Sidney Patridge, August 4, 1884; G. W. Case, December 16, 1884; J. D. Prime, September 25, 1885; C. D. McGrath, September 30, 1886; William A. Morin, March 19, 1887; G. S. Ruble, July 2, 1887; O. C. Dibble, December 23, 1887; John Heising, March 14, 1891; G. S. Goudy, May 7, 1891; W. J. Bucknell, November 25, 1891; C. H. Levens, March 24, 1892; F. E. Kenny, October 20, 1892; F. McReynolds, January 14, 1893; Henry A. House, January 18, 1895; S. H. Buchanan, February 10, 1896; W. C. Pratt, August 5, 1897; W. E. Todd,



November 11, 1899; Edward Cook, ———, 1900; C. N. Norton, September 11, 1900; E. H. Ellickson, February 19, 1901; H. D. Brown, August 2, 1901; J. C. McCarthy, January 14, 1902; F. B. Fobes, April 12, 1902; B. O. Esping, December 9, 1902; S. H. Cady, July 7, 1903; John Squires, February 4, 1904; William A. McAllister, July 18, 1904; Harry Biddell, September 15, 1904; J. J. Christenson, November 6, 1904; F. E. Case, December 25, 1904; L. J. Thomas, April 30, 1905; A. C. Trow, May 15, 1905; W. P. Pickle, August 19, 1905; C. N. Ruble, January 6, 1906; J. J. Bond, December 27, 1906; N. T. Sandburg, February 23, 1907; A. W. White, July 13, 1907; N. C. Peterson, September 4, 1907; C. H. Tang, September 23, 1907; C. M. Hewitt, March 14, 1908; George W. Geesey, April 27, 1908; M. M. Luce, April 30, 1908; Chris Nelson, July 27, 1908; L. J. Okre, October 27, 1908; J. L. Gibbs, November 27, 1908; W. H. H. Gordon, May 16, 1909; W. J. Taylor, June 9, 1909; J. M. Geisler, July 28, 1909; J. Beighley, August 14, 1909; J. G. Taylor, May 11, 1910; William Sorenson, July 22, 1911; Rev. Thomas W. Thurston, February 6, 1911; Thomas W. Wilson, March 4, 1911; Charles R. Ransom, May 7, 1911.

The worshipful masters have been: A. W. White, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1863, 1864, 1874; John W. Brownsell, 1860; H. D. Brown, 1861, 1862, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1874; F. B. Fobes, 1872, 1873, 1877, 1878; James Reppy, 1879, 1880; F. S. Lincoln, 1881; W. C. Pratt, 1882, 1884; O. C. Dibble, 1883; J. Q. Annis, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889; Henry A. House, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893; William W. Parker, 1894, 1895, 1902; John S. Chapman, 1896, 1897; Charles M. Wilkenson, 1898, 1899, 1900; George W. Geesey, 1901; William A. McAllister, 1903; Leslie A. Hanes, 1904, 1906; John F. D. Meighen, 1906, 1907; Lumen J. H. Land, 1908, 1909; Charles W. Turnbull, 1910; William J. Beal, 1911.

Wednesday evening has been set aside to the Masonic orders at Albert Lea for over fifty years. In the minutes of the blue lodge meeting held November 14, 1857, we read: "On motion it was resolved that the regular meetings of the lodge should be held on Wednesday on or before the full moon in each month, at 6 o'clock p. m." On March 16, 1859, the by-laws of the blue lodge were amended so as to make the meeting nights the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The blue lodge has never changed its meeting nights since that time. The other bodies have their regular meetings as follows: The Chapter on the first Wednesday evening of each month, the Commandery on the third Wednesday evening, and the Eastern Star on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings.

The present officers of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, are: William J. Beal, worshipful master; Nels C. Sorenson, senior warden;

*a w white  
Died July 13, 1907*

*add to*

*1875  
Dorr Gates*

*(1876-7  
W.P. Sargent)*

*1882  
P. M. Parki*



Emil Nelson, junior warden; Ole J. Wulff, secretary; Curtis B. Kellar, treasurer; Jordon R. Jackson, senior deacon; Harry D. Claybourn, junior deacon; J. B. Claybourn, senior steward; L. P. Wohllhuter, junior steward; Burt May, tyler; Rev. George H. Mueller, chaplain; Dr. G. W. Barck, organist.

The lodge had seven charter members; 356 have been raised; 47 have been restored; 171 have joined by dimit, making a total of 581; 198 have been granted dimits; 75 have been dropped from the rolls, and 62 have died, making a total of 335. The net membership at the present date (October, 1911) is 246.

**Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, Royal Arch Masons.** This organization dates from 1874. In the Grand High Priest's address at the thirteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, held in St. Paul in June, 1874, he mentions the granting of a dispensation for the opening of a chapter as follows: "To be held at Albert Lea, Freeborn county—Name, Albert Lea; issued March 30. Comp. A. W. White to be H. P. Comp. Geo. W. Prescott to be K. Comp. Jud. S. Lincoln to be S." At that same Grand Chapter Convocation the committee on charters and dispensations recommended granting a charter to Albert Lea, and reported on the state of the records as follows: "Albert Lea—Records also irregular in form, and written on sheets of paper; should be re-written in a book kept for the purpose." The charter was issued June 25, 1874. It names as High Priest, Asa W. White, the same White who had assisted in the organization of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, and who was its first Worshipful master. As King the charter names George W. Prescott, who at that time was an Anointed Past Grand High Priest. As Scribe it names Fred S. Lincoln, who afterwards became High Priest.

The chapter had been instituted under dispensation on March 30, 1874, and the first meeting was held April 17, 1874, the officers being: A. W. White, H. P.; C. L. West, K.; S. Partridge, S.; H. Powell, C. of H.; F. S. Lincoln, P. S.; George Woodward, R. A. C.; William Morin, Tr.; F. S. Sinclair, secretary.

In the address of the Grand High Priest before the Grand Chapter in 1876 he comments on Albert Lea Chapter as follows: "On the evening of December 15, 1875, I met with the Companions of Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, in Special Convocation. They are but few in number, but they manifest that attachment to the Chapter that should actuate all Royal Arch Masons, and I trust they will bring their Chapter to the front rank in the practice of our rites and ceremonies. Their hall is large, suitable, safe and convenient. Records, books and papers well kept. A fine set of jewels and good furniture, with a small cash balance in the treasury. The roll shows only eleven members, as several have dimitted to join elsewhere, but they almost always have a full attend-



ance. Only one lodge in their territory, Western Star, No. 26, at Albert Lea."

No history of this Chapter is complete without special reference to High Priest Frank B. Fobes, who afterwards became Grand High Priest. In the proceedings of the Grand Chapter for 1902 is found the following record of his life: "Past Grand High Priest Frank B. Fobes died at his home in Albert Lea, April 12, 1902. Comp. Fobes was born in New York in 1841, came West at an early day, and settled in Wisconsin. After his removal to Albert Lea, he became strongly identified with its local affairs, and held many important offices in county and city. Although modest and quiet, he was a man of intensely honest purpose, and did much to further the interests of Masonry in the state. About three years previous to his death he was stricken with paralysis, leaving him almost helpless, his condition every year being a matter of interest to this body, which now mourns his loss. Comp. Fobes joined Western Star Lodge, No. 26, from Ripon, Wis.; was exalted in Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, December 10, 1874, and was created a Knight Templar in Apollo Commandery, No. 12, at Albert Lea, December 19, 1879. He was High Priest of his chapter in 1888, and Grand High Priest in 1895."

Special mention should also be made of Charles M. Wilkinson, Past High Priest, who from 1902 until 1911 was continuously one of the officers of the Grand Chapter.

The Anointed High Priests of Albert Lea Chapter are as follows: Frank B. Fobes, P. G. H. P. (1886); L. F. Peabody (1896); W. P. Sergeant (1880); Charles F. Towne (1897). Among the High Priests of the Chapter since its organization and institution are: A. W. White, F. S. Lincoln, F. B. Fobes, L. F. Peabody, W. P. Sergeant, G. S. Gowdy, Charles F. Towne, H. G. Wohlhuter, C. M. Wilkinson, Nels C. Sorenson, H. C. Higgins, W. C. Mitchell, John F. D. Meighen.

At present there are 100 members in good standing.

**Apollo Commandery, No. 12, Knights Templar.** In 1880 the Right Eminent Grand Commander, in addressing the Grand Commandery of Minnesota, said: "Upon the petition of a number of Sir Knights mainly residing upon or near the line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, and believing that the interests of the order would be promoted and that a live commandery could be supported and maintained at Albert Lea, on the first day of October, 1879, I issued a dispensation to form and open a commandery at that place, to be entitled Apollo Commandery, U. D., and appointed Sir Knight John Boyce, Eminent Commander; Sir Knight Henry R. Wells, Generalissimo, and Sir Knight M. H. Avery, Captain General thereof. I received a very kind invitation from the Sir Knights thus appointed to visit Albert Lea and



assist the commandery thus formed in its first work of conferring the Orders upon several candidates. Unfortunately, however, for me, at the time designated, other engagements prevented my acceptance of such invitation, and I was reluctantly compelled to forego that which would have afforded me much pleasure. The V. E. Deputy Grand Commander (Sir Robert L. McCormick) was present upon that occasion."

Apollo Commandery was instituted under dispensation on the first of October, 1879, with nineteen charter members, and was duly constituted under charter July 21, 1880, at which time the following officers were installed: John Boyce, E. C.; William Morin, Gen.; M. H. Avery, C. G.; A. A. Peck, S. W.; F. S. Lincoln, J. W.; F. B. Fobes, W.; Sidney Partridge, St. B.; W. C. Pratt, Recorder.

In the proceedings of the Grand Commandery for 1881 the R. E. Grand Commander states: "At the last session of this body a charter was granted to Apollo Commandery, No. 12, located at Albert Lea, which commandery was duly constituted July 21st, 1880. It being impossible for me to be present on that occasion, I commissioned V. E. Sir R. L. McCormick, D. G. Commander, to perform the duty of constituting the new commandery, who, assisted by E. Sir L. Z. Rogers, Grand Generalissimo; E. Sir N. Staughton, Grand Standard Bearer, and E. Sir Ralph Van Dusen, Grand Warder, very creditably and acceptably performed the duty of executing the command of this body as expressed in the charter granted by you."

Since the institution of Apollo Commandery its eminent commanders have been as follows: 1879-1880, John Boyce; 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, William Morin (now deceased); 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, George T. Gardner (now deceased); 1889, J. Q. Annis; 1890-1891, W. A. Morin; 1892, 1893, 1894, J. Q. Annis; 1895, 1896, F. M. Crane; 1897, L. F. Peabody; 1898, W. W. Parker (dimitted); 1899-1900, J. E. Barron; 1901-1902, P. C. Johnson; 1903-1904, C. F. Towne; 1905-1906, L. J. Okre (now deceased); 1907, Thomas F. McKey; 1908-1909, F. W. Barlow; 1910, C. S. Edwards; 1911, H. G. Koontz.

The present officers are: H. G. Koontz, E. C.; N. C. Sorenson, Gen.; C. F. Towne, C. G.; F. S. Faville, S. W.; M. Blacklin, J. W.; I. H. Darnell, P.; L. P. Wohlhuter, T.; A. G. Brundin, R.

The membership at present is eighty, the list of members in good standing being as follows: A. G. Brundin, F. W. Barlow, John E. Barron, C. R. Brundin, B. L. Blair, Charles E. Brainerd, J. H. Bishner, Martin Blacklin, J. Q. Annis, F. M. Crane, J. S. Chapman, H. C. Cogdal, H. H. Dunn, J. D. Dauterman, I. H. Darnell, August Geissler, V. B. Gillott, J. W. Gilbert, Charles H. Gruver, J. H. Griffin, J. L. Hartz, John M. Horne, H. C. Higgins,



J. C. Hassler, M. M. Jones, Theo. A. Jacobson, W. A. Irvin, H. G. Koontz, H. E. Kellar, Nels Lund, J. C. Lampert, J. B. Large, W. A. Morin, W. C. Mitchell, John L. Miller, J. F. D. Meighen, H. M. Martinson, T. F. McKey, Charles M. Mott, Henry A. Morgan, S. L. V. Meiggs, Emil Nelson, Hans N. Nelson, Edwin Nelson, John F. Owens, C. M. Overly, L. N. Olds, L. F. Peabody, F. H. Parker, Oscar P. Paulson, J. P. Peterson, Nick W. Sims, N. C. Sorenson, George Stickney, Svend Svendson, W. F. Springer, F. A. Snow, H. E. Skinner, K. O. Sandum, George R. Spensley, Foster Stevens, R. B. Simmons, C. F. Towne, T. A. Vandegrift, James Van Draska, James J. Wright, D. M. Whitney, H. H. Wilcox, C. D. Williams, O. J. Wulff, L. P. Wohlhuter, L. S. Whitcomb, James L. Warden, William Freeman, F. S. Faville, Charles H. Freeman, J. A. Fuller, C. S. Edwards, James M. Elliott, G. W. Barck.

**Halcyon Chapter, No. 21**, Order Eastern Star, had its beginning in a meeting held April 10, 1888, in the Masonic hall, which at that time was in the second story of the Hewitt building. Those present were: F. B. Fobes, Anna Fobes, W. A. Higgins, Sarah Higgins, A. H. Squires, Georgia Squires, W. J. Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, W. W. Parker, Fanny Parker, William Lowe, Rhoda Lowe, J. Q. Annis and S. S. Mallory. These names appear on the charter. The first officers were: W. M., Sarah A. Higgins; W. P., F. B. Fobes; A. M., Elizabeth Taylor. Since then the officers have been as follows, the W. M., W. P. and A. M., respectively, being given under each year: 1889—Sarah A. Higgins, F. B. Fobes, Elizabeth Taylor; 1890—Sarah A. Higgins, F. B. Fobes, Mary Palmer; 1891—Sarah A. Higgins, William J. Taylor, Salome Geissler; 1892—Salome Geissler, A. H. Squires, Rhoda Lowe; 1893—Georgia Squires, W. A. Higgins, Mary A. Crandall; 1894—Mary A. Crandall, O. J. Wulff, Lillie Wescott; 1895—Mary A. Crandall, O. J. Wulff, Lillie Wescott; 1896—Lillie Wescott, O. J. Wulff, Ida M. Bliss; 1897—Ida M. Bliss, O. J. Wulff, Ella Brundin; 1898—Ida M. Bliss, O. J. Wulff, Carrie Vaughn; 1899—Ida M. Bliss, O. J. Wulff, Anna Whitney; 1900—Sarah A. Higgins, C. N. Ruble, Etta Johnson; 1901—Ida M. Bliss, C. N. Ruble, Anna Whitney; 1902—Agnes K. Armstrong, W. W. Parker, Nellie H. Wulff (Mrs. Armstrong having removed from the jurisdiction, Nellie H. Wulff was elected W. M. and Hattie S. Fuller, A. M., for the balance of the year); 1903—Ida M. Bliss, William J. Taylor, Anna Whitney; 1904—Maude Whitcomb, L. M. Kaplan, Bertha Hoffman; 1905—Maude Whitcomb, L. M. Kaplan, Anna Whitney; 1906—Edith Clarkson, N. C. Sorensen, Hanna Esping (Edith Clarkson removed from the jurisdiction and Hanna Esping filled the office of W. M. for the balance of the year); 1907—Ida M. Bliss, O. J. Wulff, Hanna Esping;



1908—Lucinda Cook, H. H. Cook, Mary Crandall; 1909—Ida M. Bliss, John F. D. Meighen, Claudia M. Bruyn; 1910—Claudia M. Bruyn, Charles W. Turnbull, Martha E. May; 1911—Lucinda Cook, H. H. Cook, Martha E. May. The chapter has had a steady growth and at present has 140 members. It has at various times been represented in the Grand Chapter of the state of Minnesota; Anna Fobes, as associated grand matron; Ida M. Bliss, as grand chaplain; Lillie Wescott, as associate conductress; Hanna Esping, as grand Electa. At the schools of instruction that are held each year in the district, Halcyon Chapter has taken an active part and a number of times has exemplified the work, doing it in a very creditable manner. Ida M. Bliss filled the office of district deputy grand matron two years and Hanna Esping one year.

When the Chapter had been organized ten years, a very enjoyable anniversary was observed. Nearly all of the members took part in one way or another. At the installation of the officers Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M., in 1903, the sisters of Halcyon Chapter took charge of the social features, and presented the lodge with a beautiful ivory gavel. A fraternal spirit prompted the giving and the hearts of the Masonic brothers responded in loving gratitude.

### ODD FELLOWS

Oddfellowship in Albert Lea dates from August, 1877. The order is now represented by two bodies, Albert Lea Lodge, No. 61, I. O. O. F., and Miriam Rebekah Lodge, No. 106, I. O. O. F.

**Albert Lea Lodge, No. 61, I. O. O. F.**, received its charter from Grand Master D. A. Morrison, August 14, 1877, and on that date he declared the lodge to be duly instituted, to take effect August 29 of the same year. Five men—George T. Gardner, W. H. Long, S. H. Cady, J. R. Purvis and Rev. G. S. Gowdy—were the charter members. The first officers were: S. H. Cady; V. G., George T. Gardner; R. S., E. C. Stacy; T., G. S. Gowdy. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, having steadily increased in membership, and prospered in a financial way. Faithful to its teachings, the members have many times been enabled to render needed assistance to worthy brothers and their families. The lodge has recently purchased a fine location on the corner of Newton and William streets, and now contemplates building, in the near future, a fine lodge home. The lodge room is now in the New Opera House building at the corner of Broadway and College street. The membership is nearly one hundred, and the regular meetings are held on Monday evening of each week. The present elective officers are: C. J. Dudley, N. G.; L. A. Hanes, V. G.; E. A. Neu-



bauer, R. S.; A. W. Masee, P. S.; E. S. Hammond, T. The trustees are: A. U. Mayland, W. E. Bickford and T. F. Thurston.

**Miriam Rebekah Lodge, No. 106, I. O. O. F.** The Rebekah Degree of Odd Fellowship at the present time is represented in Albert Lea and Freeborn county as well by Miriam Rebekah Lodge, No. 106, I. O. O. F. It is the only Rebekah Lodge in Freeborn county.

This lodge was instituted on January 10, 1895, by Mrs. M. L. Norton, president of the Minnesota Rebekah Assembly. The charter members were: A. H. Squires, D. L. Squires, S. H. Cady, M. J. Wulff, J. H. Menifee, Herman Klinke, Georgia A. Squires, Alice Squires, Kittie M. Cady, Inga Wulff, Elizabeth Menifee, T. K. Olson, C. H. Calkins.

The elective officers chosen at this time were: Elizabeth Menifee, noble grand; Alice Squires, vice grand; C. H. Calkins, recording secretary; Inga Wulff, treasurer. Since the organization of the lodge 158 names appear on the membership roll. The largest number of members at any one time was seventy-one. The present membership is thirty-seven. The present elective officers are: Julia Wahlin, N. G.; Margaret Larson, V. G.; Ella Willard, recording secretary; Emergene Masee, financial secretary; Elizabeth Menifee, treasurer.

The following members have filled the chair of noble grand at various times since the organization in 1895: Elizabeth Menifee, Helen Cady, Laura Palma, Libbie Richards, Jennie English, Marie Peterson, Alice Squires, Inga Wulff, Alice Marlett, Margaret Larson, Fannie Biddell, Caroline Horning, Ella Braga, Annice McMahn, Etta Johnson, Emergene Masee, Ella Willard, Ida Brown. Julia Wahlin, the present incumbent, has served many terms.

A Rebekah Lodge, Albert Lea, No. 16, was organized at a much earlier date, and was in existence for many years. It surrendered its charter in 1893.

### PYTHIAN ORDERS

The principles of the Pythian fellowship are represented in Albert Lea by the Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, K. of P.

**Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, Knights of Pythias**, was instituted on the evening of February 13, 1890, and the following Grand Lodge officers were present: M. E. Everest, P. G. C.; B. F. Stahl, G. C.; Fred E. Wheaton, G. V. C.; A. W. Knaak, G. P.; Grier M. Orr, G. K. of R. S.; J. H. Adair, G. M. E.; R. O. Philpot, G. I. G.; R. A. Huston, G. O. G. The charter member list contained the names of Morris E. Cole, Seward H. Cady, John P. Hovland, Clinton L. Luce, Thorvold V. Knatvold, Morey E. Stern, Charles A. Briggs, Frank V. Tryon, Leroy O. Greene, I. L. Ingbritsen,



Henry A. Morgan, Thomas A. Wiley, Jr., D. W. Flemming, Julius E. Peterson, John P. Von Berg, Andrew N. Daniels, W. Huffer, Frank A. Slosson, Henry N. Nelson, George H. Rohrbeck, William E. Sturtevant, Edward O. Hand, John R. Rohrbeck, C. P. Hedenstad, Thomas M. Blacklin, Joseph B. Gibson, Peter P. Berg, Rolla S. Farnsworth, Simon Strauss, C. R. Brundin, L. A. Brown, Martin Dye, H. A. Hanson, P. A. Nelson, H. C. Higgins, Thomas O. Kleven, H. Matthews and C. S. Prentice. The first officers were: Morris E. Cole, P. C.; Seward H. Cady, P. C.; John P. Hovland, C. C.; H. A. Morgan, V. C.; C. L. Luce, P.; T. V. Knatvold, K. of R. S.; Morey E. Stern, M. F.; C. A. Briggs, M. E.; F. V. Tryon, M. A.; L. O. Greene, I. G.; I. L. Ingbritsen, O. G.; trustees, S. Strauss, T. M. Blacklin, H. A. Hanson, S. H. Cady, G. L. R.

The charter was issued September 10, 1890. The lodge was organized in the Masonic hall on the third floor of the Hewitt building, at the northwest corner of Broadway and William street, and met afterwards in the Odd Fellows' hall until March 15, 1895. Meanwhile a third story had been added to the Wiegand building, at the southwest corner of Broadway and William street, for the use of the order, and a long-term lease thereon secured. For the purpose of furnishing and decorating the hall an assessment of \$15 per member was volunteered. The new Castle Hall was dedicated on the evening of March 5, 1895, and an elaborate program prepared and banquet served. Those taking part in the program were: Albert Lea Division, No. 21, Uniform Rank; Brigadier-General F. S. McDonald, Minneapolis; Grand Chancellor Fred E. Wheaton, Minneapolis; Judge Grier M. Orr, G. K. of R. S., St. Paul; Col. R. O. Philpot, Owatonna; Chancellor Commander C. S. Edwards; H. A. Morgan, I. L. Ingbritsen, T. V. Knatvold and Simon Strauss. The toastmaster on this occasion was T. V. Knatvold. At this writing the lodge still has a long-term lease on this space, which was christened the Knights of Pythias Hall. The hall was wholly remodeled and redecorated during the summer of 1907. During the Spanish American war, when Company I, Second Minnesota National Guard, was mustered into service and taken to Chickamauga, eight of the ten officers of the company were of the Albert Lea Lodge, K. of P., as well as many privates. Resolutions were passed May 10, 1898, providing for a special committee to keep in touch with the brother volunteers, to see that all dues were paid, also to look after all those who were dependent upon them for the necessities of life, should they need assistance. Some of the brothers were taken ill or injured while at Chickamauga, and, with the assistance of the brothers at Lexington, Ky., they were assisted in many ways and their stay at Chickamauga made more pleasant than it could otherwise have



been. Thursday, May 30, 1899, about forty-five of the members of No. 66 made a pilgrimage to Fairmount for the purpose of instituting a Knights of Pythias lodge at that place. Their rank conferring work was of such a high character that many invitations have been received to confer the ranks before other lodges. They have conferred the third rank at Minneapolis, Waseca, Owatonna, Dodge Center and Lyle, in Minnesota, and in Germania and Osage, Iowa, also many other places. Many times a special train has been used, and they have been accompanied by the Knights of Pythias orchestra. The lodge has always been in good financial condition, with a steady growth each year. The membership is composed mostly of the business and professional men of the city. The following members have served the lodge as chancellor commander, and in this capacity have been a credit to the organization: John P. Hovland, Seward H. Cady, Morris E. Cole, Henry A. Morgan, T. V. Knatvold, Leroy O. Greene, Clement S. Edwards, R. S. Farnsworth, H. C. Higgins, S. Strauss, L. A. Brown, L. S. Whitcomb, Fred H. Mallery, H. E. Keller, Martin Blacklin, J. P. Greene, Norman E. Peterson, Jacob P. Petersen, John F. D. Meighen and William J. Voight. Those who have received state honors are: H. C. Higgins, grand inner guard; Clement S. Edwards, G. V. C. and fraternal correspondent; and J. P. Petersen, G. M. A. and fraternal correspondent. The present spirit of the lodge is well illustrated by the following quotation from the 1911 grand chancellor's report to the grand lodge:

"Albert Lea, No. 66, is sure a winner. A page could be written about their minstrel shows, theatre parties, lantern work and ritualistic renditions. They have the right spirit and will soon own their own home. There is only one Jake Petersen, and he lives, moves, breathes and has his being in No. 66. Nothing short of a cyclone would ever retard the growth of Albert Lea. Whenever they want a blow-out, they secure enough new members to pay for it—great idea, that."

### ORDER OF ELKS

**Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E.**, was organized in the year 1902, and the first meeting held on November 24 of that year. The following names made up the charter roster, and the initiatory work was conducted by members of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Mankato and other lodges, and were headed by D. D. G. E. R. J. W. Foley, of St. Paul Lodge, No. 59. Charter members: John G. Skinner, C. N. Ruble, W. L. Devaney, J. E. Fitch, C. D. Cowgill, J. L. Klemme, D. A. Scott, C. E. Southwick, F. B. Ehlers, B. E. Baarson, L. W. Blaisdell, W. T. Morton, W. F. Gage, H. A. Barek, W. A. Russell, G. R. Jennings, L. J. Okre, James Krenik,



F. E. Case, J. E. Brown, Theo. Taraldson, Charles Baker, J. P. Morton, H. J. Harm, C. L. Swenson, H. H. Wilcox, H. W. Sieglaff, W. H. McMullen, E. W. Johnson, T. G. Skinner, W. M. McAllister, F. C. Brown, Arthur Hirsch, A. T. Jenson, R. M. Skinner, Walter Gillrup, H. E. Skinner, O. F. Steiler, Walter Morton.

Abe Hirsch was awarded the much coveted No. 1 on the membership roll, as it was his good work and efforts that placed the lodge in this city, and he might well bear the title of "Father and Founder" of No. 813. Brother Hirsch was originally a member of Olewein Lodge, but presented his application for membership here soon after the institution of this lodge. W. M. McAllister was first to occupy the chair of exalted ruler, and with him was John G. Skinner as secretary.

Nicely furnished club rooms were put in order on the third floor of the Broadway Theatre building. A parlor, card room, buffet, kitchen and billiard room made up the quarters and here the lodge maintained headquarters until March, 1910, when the club rooms were moved to the Hewitt block, at corner of East Main street and Broadway, where the home is now located. Up to the time of this move the lodge meetings were held in the Knights of Pythias hall, located on the third floor of the Wiegand block, at the corner of West William street and Broadway, as the former club rooms did not furnish ample room for lodge purposes. The present quarters are very comfortable and are made up with the lodge room in connection with the club. In addition to a large and spacious hall, there is a parlor and lounging room, card room, billiard room, buffet and kitchen, and are furnished in elegant style, which altogether make a most comfortable club home for its members.

The initiation fee was placed at \$25, and no change has been made. The annual dues are \$10 per member, which entitles him to all privileges of the order and club rooms. The order has made a steady growth until now the membership roll has reached number 312. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, its club rooms receive good patronage, and it can be classed as one of the leading social organizations of the city.

It is with deep regret that the following names are listed under the head of those who have gone before: Edward A. Foote, George Breckman, C. N. Ruble, L. E. Wetherell, Louis Peterson, L. J. Okre, Ben Huntley, Theodore Hoidal, F. E. Case, W. H. McAllister, O. J. Narverude, John C. Munkhoff, George T. McCreary, P. Bischoff, W. H. Wood. Memorial services are held each year on the first Sunday in December, and a fitting program is rendered in memory of the departed members.

Below is a list of those occupying the stations of exalted ruler and secretary since the institution of the lodge:



Exalted ruler: 1902-1903, W. H. McAllister; 1903-1904, C. H. Freeman; 1904-1905, F. H. Mallery; 1905-1906, F. H. Mallery; 1906-1907, John G. Skinner; 1907-1908, W. L. Devaney; 1908-1909, W. L. Devaney; 1909-1910, C. M. Wilkinson; 1910-1911, J. P. Greene.

Secretary: 1902-1903, John G. Skinner; 1903-1904, W. Gillrup, P. C. Jensen, A. D. Paine; 1904-1905, A. D. Paine; 1905-1906, William Walsh; 1906-1907, William Walsh, F. H. Mallery; 1907-1908, F. H. Mallery; 1908-1909, J. P. Greene; 1909-1910, G. A. Tingley, N. J. Whitney; 1910-1911, N. J. Whitney.

Present grand lodge members are F. H. Mallery, John G. Skinner, W. L. Devaney and C. M. Wilkinson. Regular meetings are held the first and third Monday evenings of each month, at the Home, corner East Main street and Broadway, where visiting members are always welcome.

### UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

**Albert Lea Council, No. 259, U. C. T. of A.**, was organized on February 20, 1904, by Ernest Grant, grand counselor, assisted by George W. Rodgers, junior grand counselor, of the Grand Council of Minnesota, Dakotas, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The council started with a membership of eighteen, with the following officers: S. C., Ira G. Stark; J. C., J. E. Fitch; P. C., W. B. Clarkson; secretary-treasurer, L. M. Kaplan; conductor, James A. Crowe; page, A. B. Chapman; sentinel, William B. Christensen. Executive Committee—C. D. Cowgill, W. J. Schmitz, W. E. Russel and H. E. Smith. Members as follows: Charles Flanders, F. S. Faville, Charles Baxter, A. Beiler, Theodore Tarldson, O. B. Newell and Martin Blacklin.

The council has ever since its organization been recognized as a "live one," and many a council in this grand jurisdiction has measured its prosperity by Albert Lea Council. The membership has been steadily on the increase, and December 1, 1910, Albert Lea Council had a membership of ninety-seven. The aim has always been "quality and not quantity," and the result is that the council is in keeping with the tenets of the order, which are: Unity, Charity and Temperance.

One year following the organization, W. B. Clarkson, J. E. Fitch and Martin Blacklin were sent to the grand council meeting at Sioux Falls, S. D., with instructions to invite the grand body to meet at Albert Lea in 1906. Their efforts were successful, and on June 8-9 the grand council held their annual session in Albert Lea. This session was so ably handled by the Albert Lea Council, assisted by the Commercial Club, that it went on record as the best and most successful meet of this Grand Body.

At the grand session in Grand Forks, N. D., in 1907, W. B.



Clarkson was elected grand sentinel, and has been advanced each year, and now holds the office of senior grand counselor, which is next to the highest gift within the grand body.

Albert Lea Council has eight past senior counselors, as follows: W. B. Clarkson, J. E. Fitch, J. A. Crowe, Frank Nelson, L. M. Kaplan, C. A. Dunning, Riley Thomson and S. K. Swenson. The officers for the present year (1910) are as follows: S. C., William C. Gray; J. C., J. E. Snyder; P. C., S. K. Swenson; secretary-treasurer, L. M. Kaplan; conductor, Henry Stocz; page, Robert Weigand; sentinel, H. A. Ellis. Executive Committee—J. A. Crowe, J. E. Fitch, E. G. Storey, Peter P. Kiel.

### OWLS AND EAGLES.

Albert Lea Lodge No. 734, Fraternal Order of Eagles, is a growing organization with a fair membership among the young men of the city. The Order of Owls also has a nest in this city and maintains some pleasing social features for its members.

### FRATERNAL INSURANCE ORDERS. . . . .

Many fraternal insurance orders are represented in this city, all having large memberships and being in a flourishing state. Among them are: Ancient Order of Workmen, Albert Lea Lodge, No. 71; Independent Order of Foresters, Court Albert, No. 1950; Knights of the Maccabees, Browning Tent, No. 28; the Ladies of the Maccabees, Albert Lea Hive, No. 28; Modern Brotherhood of America, Dimick Lodge, No. 574; Modern Woodmen, Chincapin Camp, No. 835; Royal Arcanum, Albert Lea Lodge, No. 1406; Royal Neighbors, Rose Leaf Camp, No. 354.

**Albert Lea Lodge, No. 71, A. O. U. W.**, was organized November 14, 1881, the charter officers being: R. C. Van Vechten, P. M. W.; R. N. Parks, M. W.; G. W. Rutan, foreman; J. W. Dalton, overseer; Chauncey Burtch, recorder; James A. Fuller, financier; M. M. Dodge, receiver; George Gardner, guide; C. L. Mueller, inside watchman; Martin Oleson, outside watchman. That this lodge has prospered and that it has well taken care of the widows and orphans of its deceased brothers, the records eloquently testify. During its life of nearly thirty years there have been thirty-four deaths and the total of \$65,000 has been cheerfully and promptly paid to the beneficiaries. During the tenure of office of the present recorder, Thomas I. Bergen, a period of five years, the lodge has paid out to the beneficiaries the sum of \$29,000. The lodge at the present time has a membership of 150 and is in a very flourishing condition. There is also an auxiliary lodge, known as the Degree of Honor, which has been of great help to the local lodge in many ways, but especially along social lines. From the time of its birth in this city down to the present time, this pioneer



of all fraternal insurance orders has enjoyed a membership of men in all walks in life, and some of Albert Lea's best business and professional men are now, or have been, members of this lodge. Following is a list of the master workmen of this lodge from the date of its organization: M. M. Dodge, S. S. Stauss, Adam Wiegand, Alex McNeill, William Tweedy, W. J. Taylor, W. S. Casey, J. E. Stadheim, S. S. Strauss, M. F. Donahue, Adam Wiegand, C. R. Brundin, H. F. Korfhage, John Doerr, H. F. Korfhage, William Barneck, H. F. Korfhage and J. H. Menefee. The recorders have been: Aug. Peterson, F. W. Barlow, O. Knudson, Jr., John W. Wood, Ole J. Wulff and Thomas I. Bergen. O. J. Wulff has an honorable record as recorder from 1894 to 1906, when the present recorder took office. The present officers are: P. M. W., H. F. Korfhage; M. W., J. H. Menefee; foreman, Fred Urfer; overseer, Walter E. Bickford; recorder, Thomas I. Bergen; financier, A. F. Wohlhuter; receiver, O. J. Wulff; guide, Carl Jacobson; inside watch, Nels Nelsen; outside watch, W. McNeill; medical examiners, Drs. J. P. von Berg and R. G. Stevenson; trustees, C. R. Brundin, H. F. Korfhage and Alex McNeill.

**Albert Lea Council, No. 1406, Royal Arcanum**, was instituted April 21, 1900, with a charter membership of thirty-seven, by Deputy Grand Regent Frank R. McDonald. The first officers and charter members were as follows: Regent, Henry C. Carlson; vice-regent, Dr. W. C. Merrill; orator, J. W. Olson; sitting past regent, J. D. Dauterman; secretary, Salsick Halverson; collector, C. A. Briggs; treasurer, C. A. Ransom; chaplain, John P. Klemme; guide, Julius E. Fitch; warden, Frank Thompson; sentry, E. W. Blaisdell; trustees, C. W. Ransom, A. McCulloch, Charles S. Prentice. Other charter members were: D. C. Armstrong, Walter Carlson, C. H. Day, A. Erickson, E. A. Foote, J. H. Griffin, F. A. Hauge, G. R. Jennings, P. C. Jensen, P. C. Johnson, George W. Johnson, J. L. Klemme, E. H. Korfhage, J. A. Lietz, H. A. Morgan, W. W. Parker, J. C. Sheffer, C. M. Simonson, J. G. Skinner, C. E. Southwick, S. G. Thompson, Dr. W. E. Todd and Prof. G. M. Wilcox. Of the charter members, J. D. Dauterman joined by card from a council in Iowa; J. E. Fitch, from St. Paul Council, No. 656, and G. M. Wilcox from Faribault Council, No. 1506.

The regents, or presiding officers, since the institution, have been as follows: Henry C. Carlson, 1900; D. C. Armstrong, 1901; Julius E. Fitch, 1902; J. F. D. Meighen, 1903; Salsick Halverson, 1904; Guy R. Jennings, 1905; S. K. Swenson, 1906-7; L. A. Hanes, 1908; J. P. Hurley, 1909, and E. W. Dick, 1910. The membership of the council at the close of each calendar year, beginning with 1900, has been as follows: 40, 60, 61, 61, 61, 45, 44, 91 and 106. The present membership is 99.

The representatives to the grand council have been as follows,

in the order of their election: Claude E. Southwick, D. C. Armstrong, Julius E. Fitch, S. Halverson, S. K. Swenson, Leslie A. Hanes and Joseph P. Hurley. The following members from Albert Lea Council have held office in the grand council, namely: D. C. Armstrong, grand sentry, 1901; grand warden, 1902; member of committee on appeals, 1903-4. Julius E. Fitch, grand warden, 1903-4; grand guide, 1905-6. S. K. Swenson, grand orator, 1908; grand vice-regent, 1909-10.

No deaths have occurred in the membership of Albert Lea Council since its institution; but two members that transferred to other councils have died, namely, Edward A. Foote, who became a member of Sisseton Council, in Fairmont; and Ira L. Weeks, a member of Sioux Council, No. 1308.

**Albert Lea District Court of Honor, No. 478.** The first meeting of this organization was held September 27, 1897, and at that time the following officers were duly elected: W. J. Anthony, chancellor; Mrs. Hattie Greenwood, vice-chancellor; Mrs. Jennie Reynolds, past chancellor; Mrs. Cora Styve, chaplin; Charles Greenwood, conductor; J. W. Stage, recorder; Carl C. Jorgenson, guard; Theodore Jorgenson, sentinel; Oluf Styve, treasurer; Myron Reynolds, E. Greenwood and Arthur Nelson, directors.

The organization now has forty-seven members. Its chancellors, who have guided its affairs since the first chancellor, are as follows: Myron Reynolds, 1897-1901; Ed. Greenwood, 1901-1902; Myron Reynolds, 1902-1904; J. D. Clark, 1904-1906; Myron Reynolds, 1906-1907; Mrs. Lucy Bowman, 1907-1909; Mrs. E. T. Pettit, 1909.

The order is composed of both men and women and, aside from its purpose of advancing fraternity and promoting benevolence and charity, provides death benefits and assistance to members who are totally and permanently disabled by accident. It is a subordinate body of the Court of Honor, organized under the laws of Illinois, having its headquarters at Springfield.

The present officers are: Chancellor, Mrs. Ruth N. Pettitt; vice-chancellor, Mrs. Martha Clark; past chancellor, M. Reynolds; recorder, Mrs. Della Elben; chaplain, Mrs. Hattie Greenwood; conductor, Scott Elben; sentinel, Edson Pettitt; guard, Mrs. Emma Luesman; directors, M. Reynolds, Edson Pettitt and Ed. Greenwood; medical director, Dr. J. P. von Berg.

**The Knights of the Maccabees of the World.** The applicants for a charter to form a subordinate tent of the Knights of the Maccabees met at the Knights of Pythias hall, Albert Lea, on the evening of February 22, 1895, and were called to order by Deputy E. N. Crittenden. Owing to the small number present, no formal organization was made. The name chosen for the tent was Browning. On March 1, 1895, several more were added and offi-



cers elected, with S. W. Skinner as commander and J. J. Reid as record keeper. C. J. Johnsrud took office September 30, 1895. During the year 1895 the tent had some difficulty in retaining its dispensation for a charter, but grew from four to about twenty members at the close of 1895, the majority of the members, however, carrying mostly sick and accident benefits. In the early part of 1896 an effort was made to close the charter with fifteen life benefit members, and on April 23 the charter of Browning Tent, No. 28, was granted, with T. V. Knatvold as commander and H. E. Skinner record keeper. From that time until the present the tent has enjoyed its share of usefulness to the community and has been the means of rendering aid in many cases to members in need, beside paying beneficiaries of deceased members—T. K. Olson, \$1,000; C. H. Dills, \$1,000; J. P. Madson, \$1,000; C. G. Johnsrud, \$1,000, and S. J. Wells, \$1,000. The life membership on January 1, 1911, was ninety-seven, carrying insurance amounting to \$108,750. The names of the commanders and record keepers from 1896 who have served a majority of months in any one year, or until successors qualified, are as follows: Commanders—1896, T. V. Knatvold; 1897, C. G. Johnsrud; 1898, M. L. Olson; 1899, C. H. Dills; 1900, J. H. Menefee; 1901, C. M. Wilkinson; 1902, W. E. Hammond; 1903, W. H. Miniely; 1904, 1905, 1906, J. E. Murtaugh; 1907, 1908, 1909, Lewis Larson; 1910, W. E. Bickford; 1911, Lewis Larson. Record keepers—1896 to 1900, Andrew Haugen; 1900 to 1903, J. E. Murtaugh; 1903, R. E. Dills; 1904 to 1906, J. K. Stoa; 1907 to 1910, J. E. Murtaugh; 1910 and 1911, H. M. Yates.

**Albert Lea Hive, No. 28, Ladies of the Maccabees of the World**, was organized August 30, 1898, with twenty-three charter members, three of whom were benefit members. The first officers were: Past commander, Helen Cady; commander, Mrs. E. J. Menefee; lieutenant commander, Mrs. Sarah J. Skinner; record keeper, Grace Skinner; finance keeper, Volberg Bjelland; chaplain, Mrs. Annie Sullivan; sergeant, Mrs. Lillian Anderson; sentinel, Gerda Kaas; picket, Grace Lackore; mistress at arms, Mrs. Ella Olson. Albert Lea Hive has lost four benefit members by death, and their insurance has been paid to their beneficiaries.

The present membership of Albert Lea Hive, No. 28, is fifty-six, and forty-five of that number are benefit members. The officers are: Commander, Mrs. Minnie Larson; lieutenant commander, Mrs. Cora B. Hill; past commander, Mrs. Julia Wahlin; chaplain, Mrs. Bessie Ringham; record keeper, Mrs. E. J. Menefee; finance auditor, Mrs. Arra Jeffries Calhoun; lady-at-arms, Sophia Tolby; sergeant, Anna Skophammer; sentinel, Caroline Narveson; picket, Mrs. Minnie Solheim; official prompter, Mrs. Matilda Mur-



taugh; musician, Mrs. Mabel Beedle; captain of guards, Mrs. Volberg Skinner.

**Albert Lea Camp, No. 835, M. W. A.** This camp was instituted February 25, 1889, with a membership of nineteen. Of this membership six are still members of the camp. The following were the first officers: Consul, J. R. Holverson; adviser, T. F. Thurston; banker, M. W. Sawyer; clerk, C. W. Haynes; escort, W. H. English; watchman, Ben Barragan. This was the second fraternal insurance organization to be established in this city, and while it had to pass through the same struggles that all such societies must contend with, yet its success was assured from the start, as its growth and prosperity has been regular and constant. Known as "the poor man's insurance" because of its low rates and efficient management, all kinds of business and professional men of the city were attracted to it, and it now has a membership of more than three hundred. In casting about for a suitable name, at the organization of the camp, Dr. H. H. Wilcox proposed the name "Chincapin," the name of a kind of wood growing where his former home had been, and this name was adopted. In December of last year the camp decided to change the name, and the camp is now known as "Albert Lea Camp." With so large a membership one would expect to find a large death list to mark its twenty-three years of existence, but such is not the case, as the camp has lost but nine members by death. The list is as follows: H. R. Fosson, Fred D. Dudley, L. J. Okre, M. C. Ruden, William Larsen, G. G. Chamberlain, William Sorenson, Charles Marpe, and L. Stadhem. On these deaths the society has paid in claims \$17,000.00. Besides, it has assisted neighbors in distress to the extent of about \$2,000.00 more. As the office of clerk is considered the most important, the collection of all funds as well as distribution being made through that office, a list of those holding the office at various times is here given in the order of their election: C. W. Hayes, Charles Drommerhausen, R. E. Barragan, J. R. Holverson, C. L. Swenson, C. E. Brainard, C. J. Dudley, and Art. R. Jensen, who now holds the office. There have been few things of special prominence to mark the progress of the society, but all can testify to the many good times had as social affairs. In the summer of 1897, the Southern Minnesota Picnic Association held its annual picnic at Albert Lea as the guests of Camp 835, and thousands of members of the M. W. A. assembled here for the good time which they are always sure to have. In December, 1907, a class of 130 was adopted under the county class plan, all the camps of the county joining. The present officers, who are now ably conducting the affairs of the camp, are: Consul, E. S. Hammond; adviser, W. C. Anderson; clerk, Art. R. Jensen; banker, R. E. Barragan; escort,



Edwin Fuller; watchman, Lars Christianson. The future of this society has now the brightest outlook of its entire history.

### CATHOLIC ORDERS.

Catholic orders are represented in Albert Lea by the Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Theodore Court, No. 1286.

**St. Theodore Court, No. 1286, Catholic Order of Foresters**, was organized March 10, 1902, by J. N. Mollers, then a resident of this city, with a membership of twenty-two. The first officers were: Chief ranger, Henry Stotz; recording secretary, J. A. Farry; financial secretary, J. P. Morton; treasurer, M. L. Devaney. In 1903, T. F. Rogers was elected chief ranger. He served until 1905 and was followed by J. A. Farry, who occupied the office three years. Since then the chief rangers have been James Tuberty, William Walsh, F. N. Kilbride and Theodore Speltz. J. A. Farry has always been recording secretary, with the exception of the years 1905-08, inclusive, when W. H. Murphy occupied the office. The present officers are: Chief ranger, Theodore Speltz; recording secretary, J. A. Farry; financial secretary, Arthur Speltz; treasurer, H. Stotz. The society opened club rooms on January 1, 1911, at the corner of Broadway and Clark street, and here maintains a pleasant society home.

### PATRIOTIC ORDERS.

There are two patriotic orders in Albert Lea, the Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., and Robson Corps, No. 93, W. R. C. Both are treated elsewhere.

### SCANDINAVIAN LODGES.

The Scandinavian element in Albert Lea is represented by the following societies: Sons of Norway, Normanna Lodge, No. 52; Dannebrog Lodge, No. 75, and Dagmar Lodge, No. 60.

**Normanna Lodge, No. 52, Sons of Norway.** This lodge was organized by an officer of the head lodge on July 26, 1905, with a membership of about fifty-five. The first officers elected and qualified were: Judge, A. S. Molstad; president, John Bessesen; vice-president, Carl Mickelson; secretary, Iver J. Dahl; treasurer, W. W. Gravlíe; financial secretary, Nels Logan; medical examiner, Dr. G. Biornstad; regent, Andrew Haugen; marshal, Peter Wallum; inner guard, Mathias Hagen; board of trustees, O. K. Takle, B. Skjonsberg and Even Johnson. The present officers are: Judge, Oluf Hellie; president, S. S. Tveit; vice-president, P. O. Olsen; secretary, Peter Fosse; treasurer, Andrew Boyum; financial secretary, B. Skjonsberg; medical examiner, Dr. J. R. Nannestad; regent, O. K. Takle; marshal, S. Austerheim; inner guard, I. J. Hove; outer guard, Theodore Bell; board

of trustees, S. O. Wangen, Carl J. Hansen and Gaylor Olson.

The Order Sons of Norway has at the present time about 10,000 members all over the Northwest, with head offices at Minneapolis, Minn. The order has three classes of members—insurance, non-insurance and social members. The insurance features of the order are of the very best, being thoroughly established on the American experience table. The order is gradually growing and includes the very best of Norwegian element in this country.

In addition to the insurance feature the great aim of the order is to promote and maintain the high standing of the Norwegian people in America, to make them better Norwegian-Americans, worthy of the sturdy Norse race.

Affiliated with the Order of Sons of Norway is the Order of Daughters of Norway, which is doing great work in the same line and with the same object as the Sons of Norway.

**Dannebrog Lodge, No. 75** (Danish Brotherhood) was organized April 16, 1894, with thirty-four charter members. P. C. Johnson was the first president and James Anderson was first secretary. Mr. Johnson served from April 16, 1894, to July 1, 1895. Following him the presidents have been: N. P. Nelson, from July 1, 1895, to January 1, 1896; P. C. Johnson, from January 1, 1896, to July 1, 1896; P. F. Peterson, from July 1, 1896, to July 1, 1897; T. Meinecke, from July 1, 1897, to January 1, 1898; P. C. Johnson, from January 1, 1898, to July 1, 1898; M. S. Johnson, from July 1, 1898, to January 1, 1899; A. C. Sorenson, from January 1, 1899, to July 1, 1899; P. C. Johnson, from July 1, 1898, to January 1, 1900; Henry Larson, from January 1, 1900, to January 1, 1901; P. C. Clausen, from January 1, 1901, to July 1, 1901; G. A. Clausen, July 1, 1901, to January 1, 1902; J. P. Jensen, from January 1, 1902, to January 1, 1903; P. C. Johnson, from July 1, 1903, to January 1, 1905; Anton Larson, from January 1, 1905, to July 1, 1905; A. C. Sorenson, from July 1, 1905, to July 1, 1906; C. M. Tapager, from July 1, 1906, to July 1, 1908; N. C. P. Lunde, July 1, 1908, to January 1, 1909; C. M. Tapager, January 1, 1909, to January 1, 1910; Ole C. Olson, January 1, 1910, to January 1, 1911, and Andrew L. Nelsen, the present president. The membership is 169, and the officers from January 1, 1911, to July 1, 1911, are: Past president, Ole C. Olson; president, Andrew L. Nelsen; vice-president, Otto Sorensen; corresponding secretary, Benjamin Jensen; financial secretary, James J. Anderson; treasurer, Robert Anderson; trustees, M. C. P. Lunde, J. Alb. Sorensen, Charles Swendson; pilot, Andrew M. Nelson; inner guard, Hans Nelson; outer guard, Anton Larsen; biblothecker, Rasmus Alb. Sorensen; building manager, James J. Anderson; entertaining committee, James Swenson, Anton Larson and Robert Andersen. In the year



1910 the Danish Brotherhood organized into a corporate body and purchased a lot on the corner of Clark and Newton streets in the city of Albert Lea and erected a two-story brick building, the second story being occupied by the Danish Brotherhood and nine other lodges, the cost of the lot and building being \$21,000, a part of this being donated by the Danish Brotherhood, this being the only building owned and occupied in the state by that order.

**Dagmar Lodge, No. 60, of the Danish Sisterhood**, was organized July 24, 1902, with the membership number of twenty-one. The names of the first officers are as follows: Exalted president, Mrs. C. P. Engen; president, Mrs. Ole Olsen; vice-president, Mrs. A. L. Nielsen; secretary, Mrs. C. Christensen; treasurer, Mrs. L. Madsen; trustees, Mrs. Henry Larsen, Mrs. J. T. Svendsen, Mrs. S. Nielsen; conductor, Mrs. C. Pedersen; inner guard, Mrs. A. Larsen; outer guard, Miss J. Jensen. The organization of this lodge is to care for the members of same in sickness and give others of their own nationality help when it is needed. This lodge has a membership now of thirty-eight, and its officers in 1910 are as follows: Exalted president, Mrs. N. C. Lunde; president, Mrs. C. Pedersen; vice-president, Mrs. C. Christensen; secretary, Mrs. T. C. Jensen; treasurer, Mrs. C. P. Engen; trustees, Mrs. J. T. Svendsen, Mrs. Otto Sorensen, Mrs. A. Sorensen; conductor, Mrs. C. Larsen; inner guard, Mrs. C. Svendsen; outer guard, Mrs. O. Olsen.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### **SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE.**

**Clubs of Albert Lea—Sociability and Mutual Help the Keynote—  
Church Organizations—Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
—City Relief Society—Women's Relief Corps—Travel Class—  
Beethoven Club—Study Club—Albert Lea Science Association  
Fortnightly Club.—By Mrs. Alice I. Todd.**

From the first of its existence, a distinctive characteristic of Albert Lea, has been the sociability and hospitality of its people.

In the early pioneer days the settlers would gather together at the different homes, where friendly greetings were exchanged, good cheer and hospitality were dispensed, and the weather, the crops, and all the little neighborhood events were discussed. In those gatherings the embryo club life commenced. That longing for comradeship has developed into the characteristics of the club member of today, who, with others, wishes to belong to an association for the promotion of some common object.

In this way Albert Lea may be called a club town. There are the many fraternal organizations; dancing and card clubs innumerable; and the small social coterie found in every block. Each of our churches has its own particular societies, where members may enjoy the social life which the church furnishes.

Shakespeare clubs and reading circles exist for a longer or shorter time, depending upon the characteristics of their members. The Cooking Club and Home Economics Club are always in a flourishing condition. Some clubs have been organized for the abatement of a temporary evil; the object accomplished, they have been allowed to die out.

The Waverly Club, whose original object was the reading of the Waverly Novels, later became as much a social as a literary club.

The Cream Club, whose members were a social company of ladies, flourished some twelve and fifteen years ago. A pitcher of cream arriving at the home of one of its members foretold the advent of the club. One of the enjoyable events of this club was the gathering of the families of its members July 4 of each year on the lawn of W. A. Morin for a supper, the gentlemen furnishing the fireworks for the evening. Both this and the Waverly Club are of the past.

**The Woman's Christian Temperance Union** was the pioneer





MRS. MARGARET E. MORIN



MRS. R. B. SKINNER



MRS. A. C. WEDGE



MRS. FRANC E. BLACKMER



MRS. JOHN G. GODLEY





woman's organization in Albert Lea, and, with the exception of a few years interim, has had a continuous existence to the present day. On March 30, 1877, fourteen women, pledged to total abstinence, organized a W. C. T. U. to "work for the suppression of intemperance in our midst." Mrs. D. R. P. Hibbs was the first president, Mrs. J. W. Smith secretary, and Mrs. W. P. Sergeant treasurer. Other prominent workers in the early days were Mrs. E. C. Stacy, Mrs. J. Barden, Mrs. Laura Fixen, Mrs. J. D. Prince, Mrs. W. Buel, Mrs. W. S. Krebs and Mrs. R. B. Skinner.

Later presidents have been Mrs. Teeter, Mrs. A. A. Barck, Mrs. M. F. Armstrong and Mrs. Mary Ellickson. At present Mrs. Mary A. Petran is president, with a membership of forty-five in the union.

In an existence of thirty-four years the activities have been varied. Regular meetings have been held twice a month, a study of topics of vital interest to the home has been made; union gospel meetings have been held in churches and in the park. Many prominent lecturers have been procured; boxes of literature have been maintained at depots, and barrels of good reading matter sent to men at the lumber camps; a booth and rest room has been supplied at the county fair. City and county temperance campaigns have been assisted by the union with work and money, and contributions have been made to state and national W. C. T. U. work.

In 1910 a sanitary drinking fountain was presented to the city and placed on the corner of Broadway and William street.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Unions of the county were organized in 1890 into a county union, holding annual conventions. Mrs. Mary Aldrich was for many years a leader in the work at Freeborn; Mrs. T. E. Noble and Mrs. Ben Whittemore were the chief factors in making the Armstrong union famous, and Mrs. H. C. Cottrell has long been prominent in the Glenville union. She has also served many years as president of the Freeborn County W. C. T. U.

**The City Relief Society**, whose members are doing a noble work among the worthy poor of Albert Lea, was organized some twenty-five years ago. Mrs. J. W. Smith, now of Minneapolis, was the first president, and retained that position until she left Albert Lea. Mrs. Walker was president for the following year, and Mrs. Day, the present president, has held the office ever since.

In the years since its organization this band of women, working together, have helped a great many families, not only with clothing and food, but have given them encouragement by the interest taken in them. They have many times aided and assisted the family while the husband, just recovering from illness, was obtaining work.



This organization receives gifts of clothing and anything useful. Some people, recognizing the good they are accomplishing, donate money liberally to the cause, and thus they are enabled to give all needy ones a good and substantial Christmas dinner, as well as something for other dinners.

**Woman's Relief Corps.** One of our city papers, dated February 7, 1894, contained the following: "Robson Post, No. 93, W. R. C. The meeting at G. A. R. hall Wednesday evening, January 31, 1894, to organize a W. R. C., was very largely attended, and why should it not have been, when there was a fine supper to all who were there? Four long tables were filled with eatables and fully 150 partook, and in no half-hearted manner either. After supper the tables were cleared and a social time enjoyed, after which Mrs. Dr. Rice, of Fairmont, invited the gentlemen to retreat to the rear. The movement was performed in an artistic manner, showing that many were familiar with that kind of action. Mrs. Rice then proceeded to muster in the corps, forty-five being the number of charter members. The officers elected are as follows: President, Mrs. Anna Hibbs, senior vice-president, Mrs. Nancy Payne; junior vice-president, Mrs. Jennie Frost; secretary, Mrs. Elva Wannamaker; treasurer, Mrs. Frances Farnsworth; chaplain, Mrs. Hulda Colvin; assistant conductor, Mrs. Nancy Randall; guard, Mrs. Mary Fobes; assistant guard, Mrs. Sarah Peck. They mustered in the largest charter membership of any corps in southern Minnesota, an unusual number, so the mustering officer and the state treasurer declared. The brass of the G. A. R. will be the brighter, now that the W. R. C. are enlisted for their assistance."

In the years since then they have faithfully assisted the G. A. R., not only in visiting with them the graves of their departed comrades and leaving their floral offerings, but also in remembering their comrades in the Soldiers' Home with some of the luxuries as well as the substantials of life.

The officers at the present time are: President, Mrs. Harry Weeks; senior vice-president, Mrs. J. R. Dunbar; junior vice-president, Mrs. Dell Converse; chaplain, Mrs. Myron Reynolds; secretary, Mrs. Martha May; treasurer, Mrs. Mercy Rogers; conductor, Mrs. Cora Thomas; assistant conductor, Mrs. H. W. Lukins; guard, Mrs. Elizabeth Kruse; assistant guard, Mrs. James Peterson.

**Travel Class.** In the year 1890 a number of the earnest and progressive women of Albert Lea, desiring to improve themselves and extend their knowledge, especially in history and literature, conceived the idea of the organization of an association for personal study, intellectual growth and mutual improvement.

The first meeting was held November 10, with the following







MRS. GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN



MRS. HARRIETT J. BARDEN



MRS. D. R. P. HIBBS



MRS. EMILY A. HUYCK



MRS. ELLEN THOMPSON



ladies present: Mrs. D. R. P. Hibbs, Mrs. William Hazelton, Mrs. M. H. Truesdell, Mrs. R. B. Skinner, Mrs. F. A. Blackmer, Mrs. H. G. Day, Mrs. E. L. Jacobus, Mrs. C. S. Prentice, Mrs. T. V. Knatvold, Mrs. W. C. Merrill, Mrs. C. A. Briggs, Miss Anna Hibbs, Miss Fanny Hazelton and Miss Mary Gates.

At a preparatory meeting the following committee was appointed to draft a constitution: Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Jacobus and Mrs. Hazelton. The constitution presented by this committee was adopted at the next meeting, November 17, and the following officers elected: Mrs. Hibbs, president; Mrs. Merrill, vice-president; Miss Mary Gates, secretary, and Mrs. Day, treasurer. The association was, by the constitution, named "The Travel Class."

The meetings of this class are at the homes of its members on alternate Monday afternoons from October to June, a short vacation occurring during the holidays.

Membership is elective, and while at one time the roll call was responded to by forty-two members, at present there are only twenty-seven.

As the name indicates, the course of study of this club has been along the line of travel; taking some country, and with the aid of the great writers and travelers, obtaining knowledge of its geology and geography, and becoming familiar with the history, government, religion and literature of its people. In this way the class has studied, not only the United States and its possessions, but England and most of the other foreign countries. Two papers descriptive of the country being studied and a character sketch, followed by a general discussion of each, are given at every meeting, also a budget of current event items. Fines are imposed for failure to do the work assigned, and also for non-attendance.

In the early days of this club the reference books, when not obtainable in private libraries, were purchased by the organization, and later, when the Public Library was a reality, the books were donated to that institution. Now our Carnegie and the State libraries furnish all needed material for reference.

At different times there have been given lectures, with illustrations, of the country being studied. This club federated with the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs in 1895. A banquet and a picnic are the social events during the year.

This last year—1910—being the twentieth anniversary of the Travel Class, the members celebrated the event by inviting the charter members to a banquet at the home of Mrs. D. R. P. Hibbs, who was president of the class for the first ten years. Twelve of the charter members responded to the invitation, either in person or by letter. Two—Mrs. E. L. Jacobus and Mrs. R. B. Skinner—have passed into the other life. As a memorial of this anni-



versary, the class set aside an amount for the purchase of a magazine rack, to be presented to the Carnegie Library.

The present officers of the class are: President, Mrs. T. F. Thurston; vice-president, Mrs. Alice I. Todd; secretary, Mrs. Earl Dominick; treasurer, Mrs. H. H. Cook.

**Beethoven Club.** On the evening of January 6, 1901, an informal musicale was held at the home of Mrs. C. D. Cowgill, and later a club was organized to study music. The ladies composing this organization were: Mrs. W. C. Farrington, Mrs. Nora Rodli, Mrs. C. D. Cowgill, Mrs. E. Osborne, Mrs. Virginia Skinner, Mrs. H. C. Carlson, Mrs. Eugene Chrisler, Mrs. Hattie Smith Fuller, Mrs. Charles Howe, Mrs. Lora Nelson, Mrs. R. B. Thompson, Mrs. Winnifred McAllister, Miss Jessie Simms, Miss Virginia Blair, Miss Alice Hibbs, Miss Lottie Elleckson, Miss Laura Koontz, Miss Frances Geissler, Miss Vera Olberg, Miss Henrietta Emmons, Miss Pederson and Miss Grace Blair.

Beethoven was chosen as the name of this club and the officers elected were. Mrs. Hattie Smith Fuller, president; Mrs. C. D. Cowgill, vice-president, and Mrs. Charles Howe, secretary and treasurer.

From its organization until February, 1907, the club met at the homes of its members. At that time an upright piano was purchased and placed in Library Hall, where the meetings of the club have been held every two weeks, from the first Monday evening in October until the last Monday in May.

In the fall of 1902 this club joined the Minnesota Federation of Woman's Clubs.

The Beethoven has been instrumental in bringing many musical attractions to the city. Among the artists brought here are: Mr. and Mrs. Reidelsberger, Mrs. Jessie L. Gaynor, Mrs. Maud Ulmer Jones, Miss Gertrude San Souci, U. S. Kerr, Madame Langendorff, Baxter Perry, Holmes Cowper, Lilla Ormund, Enrico Palmetto; and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra has been here three times.

Through the indefatigable efforts of the president, Mrs. Fuller, the growth of this club has been steady, and increasing until it now numbers fifty-four members.

The Beethoven claims the honor of being the largest music club in the state, outside of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth.

The present officers are: Mrs. Hattie Smith Fuller, president; Mrs. M. P. Fuller, vice-president; Miss Ella Hove, secretary; Mrs. M. L. Robbins, treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Nannestad, critic.

**Study Club.** In the year 1902 seven ladies, wishing to benefit themselves by study, and realizing "As iron sharpeneth iron, so are the wits edged and brightened by friction with other minds," formed an organization for this purpose.



A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the name of the Albert Lea Study Club chosen. The ladies signing this constitution were: Mrs. Anna Barragan, Mrs. Ella Johnson, Mrs. Elva Wannemaker, Mrs. Jennie Frost, Mrs. Martha May, Mrs. William Homrig and Mrs. J. E. Fitch. From this number Mrs. Ella Johnson was chosen president; Mrs. William Homrig, vice-president; Mrs. Elva Wannemaker, secretary, and Mrs. Anna Barragan, treasurer.

“Neglect not the gift that is within thee” was the motto selected by this new club. It was decided to adopt green and white as the club colors.

The regular meetings of this club are held every alternate Monday, beginning on the first Monday in October and continuing until the last Monday in May.

The study of the United States was first taken and continued for four years. The remainder of the time has been given to the British Isles and Germany.

The strength of union and the power of co-operation may bring about results from which every club may realize direct good, so this little club, in 1904, affiliated with the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, for the purpose of strengthening itself.

The membership list has gradually increased, until it now numbers twenty-one active and four honorary members.

While not a social organization, the Study Club holds its annual open meetings and a yearly picnic, to which the family of each member is invited. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Harry Weeks; vice-president, Mrs. P. H. Muus; secretary, Mrs. G. R. Scott; treasurer, Mrs. L. R. Burton.

**The Albert Lea Science Association** was organized November 11, 1890, by a number of gentlemen interested in scientific subjects and the discussion of them. The promoters of this association were the late D. G. Parker, R. B. Abbott, D.D., and Clint L. Luce.

The meetings were held in the old Presbyterian Chapel, on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month, from September to June. One paper on a scientific subject was read, and a thorough discussion of it followed.

The growth of this club was remarkable. In 1897 there were sixty-nine active and four honorary members. The interest in the meetings was earnest and exceedingly strong, but through the illness and absence from the city of some of its most interested members this association was allowed to disband.

**Fortnightly Club.** This club is an organization of gentlemen only, for the purpose of discussing ethical, social and economic questions of the day.

It was organized March 5, 1907. The membership is elective and limited to twenty-four, and is composed mostly of gentlemen from the different business and professional interests in the city.

The meetings are held in Library Hall on alternating Tuesday evenings from October to June. Two or three banquets during the year, to which the ladies are invited, are the social features of the organization.

The present officers are: Rev. James B. Lyle, president; W. G. Chamberlain, vice-president; M. L. Robbins, secretary.



## CHAPTER XXIX.

### **FREEBORN COUNTY VILLAGES.**

**Story of the Prosperous Trading Centers—Alden, Clarks Grove, Emmons, Freeborn, Glenville, Geneva, Gordonsville, Hartland, London, Manchester—Other Villages—Bancroft and Itasca—Three Former Villages.**

Since the earliest days Freeborn county has been blessed with excellent trading points. Some of the villages platted in pioneer times flourished a time and died. Others have survived to the present day. The coming of the railroads was naturally an impetus to the building of villages, and several of the hamlets in Freeborn county had their beginning with the erection of a station or warehouse. The county is fortunate in the number of its prosperous villages. Alden, Emmons, Glenville and Hartland are incorporated, and several others have a population of several hundred each. Many years ago the little hamlets were grouped about the postoffices. In modern times, with the development of the dairy interests, the settlements cluster about the creameries.

### **ALDEN VILLAGE.**

Alden has often been called the ideal small village. Situated on a beautiful body of water in the midst of a rich farming country, with neat buildings and well kept streets, exceptional school opportunities and adequate church facilities, the village has advantages which make it an ideal place of residence. There is an excellent newspaper here; Methodist, Presbyterian, Danish Baptist and Danish Lutheran churches, as well as two German Lutheran and one Danish Lutheran congregation, two banks, a good hotel, a flouring mill, grain elevators, a city hall, excellent water supply, the best of fire protection, cement sidewalks, electric lights and a local telephone exchange.

Among the activities of Alden may be mentioned: Flouring mill and electric works, W. H. Walker Milling Company; cement works, T. Svendsen; three general stores, A. G. Hall & Son, G. Svendsen, Cash Store (J. E. Clayton, proprietor); two hardware stores, Alden Hardware & Machine Company (George P. Valby, manager), H. A. Ebert; two blacksmith shops, Petersen & Pestorious, George Yates; one hotel, the Alden House (H. H. Van Wie, proprietor); furniture and undertaking, E. W. Beatty; two drug stores, James Emerson, Christiansen & Garlock; lumber and

coal, Fred Holway (succeeding the Coleman Lumber Company); two elevators, La Crosse Grain Company (C. E. Stockman, manager), G. A. Swan Elevator Company (Carl W. Nelson, manager); livery and garage, C. H. Henderson; meat market, Herbert Minor; feed barns, draying and livery, L. P. Hemmingsen, C. A. Hord; variety store, Peter Hemmingsen; jewelry store, Charles U. Van Winkle; watch repairer, wagon maker, jeweler and general machinist, C. N. Ostrander; billiard and pool hall, H. E. Case; dentist, J. H. Gleason; newspaper, "Alden Advance" (job printing and publishing); physicians, B. A. Kamp and James Christiansen.

The Alden Hotel, long known as the Hotel Hazle, was erected in an early day by Daniel Hurd. It was managed by various persons until purchased by John A. Hazle, who still owns it, the present landlord being H. H. Van Wie.

The streets are lighted with four arc lights and thirty-five incandescent lights, the power being furnished by the W. H. Walker Milling Company. This company received the contract late in 1900, and the street lights were installed in January, 1901.

The village citizens voted water bonds to the amount of \$5,000 on July 3, 1894. It was decided that the vote was illegal, and the same question was voted upon favorably on September 19, 1894. The original waterworks plant was completed in 1895. In 1908 a new system was installed. The present system consists of a set of mains, an eight-inch tubular well 221 feet deep, a 2,000-barrel reservoir, a twenty-five-horsepower gas engine and a triplex pump. The water is under a pressure of sixty pounds and enables the fire fighters to secure an adequate stream of water from three hose nozzles at once.

In July, 1902, a telephone franchise was granted to B. C. Hazle and J. A. Hazle by the village council of Alden. These gentlemen operate a local and rural telephone exchange, and have some 500 instruments in use. For long-distance service it connects with the Northwestern. The Tri-State has been granted permission to maintain a long-distance toll station here, but is not permitted to operate a local exchange.

The City Hall was erected in 1891 and an addition built in 1908. The building is a two-story edifice, housing the fire department, the council chambers and the like, and furnishing a fine hall for entertainments and lectures. The jail is in a separate building.

Alden has an excellent high school, housed in a splendid brick building and surrounded with a fine playground. Aside from the teaching of the usual academic branches, the school pays especial attention to agriculture and manual training, the institution being thoroughly modern in every respect. The present building replaced a two-story edifice erected in 1875 and later



burned. The present Board of Education consists of O. N. Hoel, J. E. Clayton, W. H. Walker, C. S. Johnson and A. C. Paulson.

The Alden cemetery is controlled by the village government, the Alden Union Cemetery Association having turned its property over to the village council January 11, 1902. The village board acts as a cemetery board, the recorder being the actuary.

The village of Alden was incorporated by a special act of the legislature in 1879, and the first meeting of the council was held March 14, 1879. The meeting was called to order by President T. W. Wilson, those present being Trustees C. E. Booth, J. A. Hazle and A. G. Hall; recorder, F. F. Powers; treasurer, A. A. Davis; justice of the peace, L. T. Walker. Since then the presidents of the council have been: 1880, H. B. Collins; 1881, L. T. Walker; 1882-83, H. B. Collins; 1884-85-86, C. E. Booth; 1887, J. C. Johnson; 1888, L. T. Walker (did not qualify and J. A. Hazle served); 1889-90, C. K. Clark; 1891, J. A. Hazle; 1892, C. M. Cannon; 1893-94-95-96-97, J. A. Hazle; 1898-99, John Watson; 1900, I. E. Starks; 1901, Fred Holway; 1902, S. J. Lombard (resigned), G. Swendsen (pro tem.), Pearl C. Cornish; 1903-04-05-06, Glenn Howard; 1907-08, J. H. Gleason; 1909-10, M. P. Howe; 1910-11, J. H. Gleason.

The present council consists of: Mayor, J. H. Gleason; recorder, Alfred P. Christensen; trustees, George P. Valby, Hans Scotte and Fred Pestorious. The village has declared itself for no license for several years past.

In 1871 the town of Alden issued bonds to the Southern Minnesota Railroad for \$30,000 as a bonus for establishing a railroad station. The road, which was completed to Albert Lea in the fall of 1869, came through Alden in mid-winter and was pushed on to Wells in January of 1870. The bonds became due in 1901, and a question was raised as to their legality. A bitter fight was carried into the courts and many complications arose. Eventually, however, the bonds were paid, the distribution of the burden being made on the assessed valuation of the property in village and township. While the fight was raging doubts were cast on the legality of the incorporation of the village, and while the people in the village continued to maintain their local government, they were compelled to resort to the regular polling places of their respective townships to vote upon county, state and national affairs. February 25, 1908, the village was reincorporated under the statute of 1905 and the entire affair is now a thing of the past.

Even before the village of Alden was organized, C. N. Ostrander and a few others banded together to perfect a fire fighting organization. In 1881 a hand pump was purchased and a regular company of twelve men organized, with C. N. Ostrander



as chief. December 20 the present fire department was organized, with R. F. Hazle as chief. He resigned in 1896, and a few months later C. N. Ostrander became chief, a position he has since occupied. Frank L. Walker is the secretary and W. H. Walker the treasurer. The department consists of twenty volunteers, and has two hose carts with about 1,250 feet of hose. The five ladders are carried to fires by the men, this having proved a more satisfactory method than having a hook and ladder truck drawn by horses.

Alden has a number of fraternities, a G. A. R. post, several organizations of women and the usual church societies. Alden Lodge, No. 192, I. O. O. F., was granted a charter February 18, 1892, the charter members being J. P. Peterson, Alexander Noble, Albert Ostrander, E. C. Fisher and J. M. Marlett. Alden Lodge, No. 73, Danish Brotherhood in America, was granted a charter February 7, 1894, the charter officers being H. A. Hansen, Andrew Robertsen, George P. Valby, Gerhart Swansen, Andrew P. Hansen, Hans Petersen, Hans A. Swanson and Hans Jacobsen. Maple Camp, No. 2325, M. W. A., was granted a charter June 4, 1894. The charter members were: Robert A. Austin, Ray Bryant, Lucius Burton, Theodore J. Burton, Lucien C. Cowles, Henry B. Cottrell, Victor Fink, Frank Landis, J. J. Minor, Ed. Miller, Frank Parr and Frank Wendt. Ivy Lodge, No. 1244, Royal Neighbors of America, was instituted December 22, 1898. Dewey Lodge, No. 460, M. B. A., was granted a charter March 25, 1899. The charter officers were: B. G. Campbell, W. H. Baker, S. J. Lombard, H. E. Case, W. E. Thompson, O. F. Stone, H. Pfeiffer and H. A. Svendsen. Palme Lodge, No. 82, the Danish Sister Society in America, was granted a charter August 13, 1904. The charter officers were: Gerda Petersen, Mary Hansen, Kristine Elizabeth Olsen, Marie Hemmingsen, Emma Svendsen, Thine Clausen, Lidse K. Nielsen and Kristine Siemssen.

Alden has had a number of fires. The mills, the schoolhouse and the store of Hansen, Rasmussen & Co. were destroyed in four serious fires, and the latter conflagration would have spread to many more blocks but for the work of the fire fighters. In 1886 the Hotel Hazle was likewise saved by heroic work on the part of the firemen. September 19, 1896, the great fire came.

The fire, which is supposed to have been started by some careless or incendiary tramps, originated in Walker & Valby's barn, and when first seen had almost enveloped two frame business houses on the east side of Main street. Mrs. H. H. Thompkins first gave the alarm, but the flames, intensified by the strong southeast wind, leaped and spread and engulfed the buildings with such swiftness that little could be done to stay them. Some hard fighting was done, however, and thereby Hazle's hotel escaped, other



buildings near by being saved by miracle. Fifteen buildings and nearly all their contents went down to ashes in the relentless holocaust. Among them were the bank, "Advance" newspaper office, Methodist church, bakery, drug store and other prosperous business places. The "Advance" contains the following list of losses and insurance: P. Hemmingsen, building and goods, \$15,000.00; J. P. Peterson, saloon and contents, \$950.00; Morin & Mason's meat market, \$25,000.00; Booth & Landis, drugs and furniture, \$3,000.00; C. E. Booth, drug store, \$1,200.00; W. C. Colby, building and bakery, \$2,500.00; Bank of Alden, \$20,000.00; R. O. Olson, personal property, \$590.00; Walter & Valby, building and stock, \$20,000.00; I. A. Carey, building tools and furniture, \$2,500.00; Dr. L. C. Cowles, library, etc., \$500.00; N. L. Whitman, barber, \$500.00; Morin & Mason's barber building, \$1,200.00; A. P. Hanson, shop, stock and building, \$1,500.00; Chicago Fair store building, \$13,000; M. D. Hawyer, household furniture, \$800.00; H. J. Niebuhr, building hardware, etc., \$25,000.00; Jenson & Owen, boots and shoes, \$1,500.00; Odd Fellows' building, \$1,500.00; "Advance" printing office, \$800.00; H. H. Thompkins' building, household goods, etc., \$1,150.00; Methodist church, \$2,250.00; Hanson & Swenson, across the street, were damaged about \$1,200.00; C. N. Ostrander, N. F. Anderson, J. A. Hazle, M. D. Hawyer, Daniel Rasmussen, Carl Peterson and others lost probably \$50.00 to \$300.00 each, in most cases there being no insurance. These figures are greatly exaggerated.

The Alden Flouring Mill originated in 1875, having been erected that year by William Wilson. The building was 28x50 feet, a story and a half high, containing four sets of burrs, which are driven by sufficient force, by steam power, to grind fifty-five barrels of flour per day. The mill was located near the lake and cost about \$12,000. This building was burned.

For some years Stevenson & Johnson ran a mill here. They disposed of their interest to a farmers' coöperative company and John L. Garlock took charge. The mill was burned. In 1900 the W. H. Walker Milling Company was organized with the following officers: President, Ole I. Opdahl; manager and secretary, W. H. Walker; cashier, Ralph Olson; directors, Benjamin Randall and Ralph Olson. The capital stock is \$25,000. The mill is a large structure of corrugated iron and has a capacity of 125 barrels a day. The Pure Cream brand enjoys a large sale, and the White Foam and Silver Plume are also popular makes. D. H. Morehouse has been head miller since the present company took charge. A. L. Fenton has charge of the electric department, which furnishes electricity for the village of Alden.

Alden was laid out and platted by William Morin and H. W. Holley, the former of Albert Lea and the latter of Winnebago



City. After a short time Mr. Morin purchased the interest of Mr. Holley. The first business of any kind opened on the village site was the postoffice, which A. G. Hall moved from his place in section 1. The first actual business establishment was started about the time of the arrival of the railroad, in 1869, by a Mr. Terrill, who opened a stock of general merchandise. He shortly after took into partnership J. H. Sherwood, who in a few months purchased the entire establishment and continued it about two years. A. G. Hall erected the first residence in the village just prior to the opening of this store. The station was commenced by the railroad company and by the first of January, 1870, the track was completed to the village. Next came the business house of George Whitman. Holley & Morin erected a store building, which was rented to Mr. Whitman, and he moved a stock of general merchandise in the building and placed the same in charge of Joseph Green and Victor Gillrup. This store was finally moved to Delavan. Dell Miller erected a suitable shop and conducted a blacksmith shop about a year until his death. Arthur Trigg came about the same time and opened a blacksmith shop, which he continued for some time. Soon afterward L. T. Walker started a general merchandise store under the firm name of Walker & Co., Mr. Walker having several different partners. About the time that the above establishment originated, A. G. Hall, who is mentioned as really having been the first resident of the village, erected a store building in connection with his dwelling house and opened up a large stock of general merchandise. This firm is still conducted under the name of A. G. Hall & Son. Shortly afterward H. N. Burnham purchased the old Whitman building and opened a general merchandise store, which he conducted for two years and then closed out. Later on Charles Pfeffer started a store in the same building. Armstrong & Wheelock opened a store here, but were finally closed out. H. B. Collins was the first lawyer in the village and later opened a general merchandise store. At an early day a doctor named R. D. Barber located in the village and remained about a year.

In the early days a dam was built near the present site of the village of Alden, this forming a beautiful sheet of water some twenty-five acres in extent. In 1883 and 1884 C. N. Ostrander, working for W. A. Morin, filled up some four acres, thus forming the land upon which the city hall and a number of other buildings were located.

### **CLARKS GROVE VILLAGE.**

Clarks Grove village is located in section 34, Bath township. It is a thriving place with a bank, a creamery, a church, a school, many residences and the usual business houses. Among the activi-



ties of the village may be mentioned: The Clarks Grove Mercantile Company, general store; J. W. Peterson, general store; Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Company, hardware and implement store; Western Elevator Company, elevator; Clarks Grove Lumber, Fuel & Stock Company, lumber and fuel; J. P. Larson, stock buyer; W. E. Stowell, confectionery store, hotel, barber shop and jewelry store; Lars Larson, meat market; Chris. Larson, livery; Mrs. Charles Anderson, ice cream parlor; George Larson, feed mill; Andrew Peterson and Peter Jenson, blacksmith shops; the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association of Bath. The history of the churches, banks and creameries appears elsewhere.

The settlement known as Clarks Grove long antedates the establishment of the village. J. Mead Clark came to this locality in the early days and settled in a grove a mile east of the present village. His grove being a conspicuous feature of the landscape, a territory some two miles square soon came to be called the Clarks Grove neighborhood. Among those who lived in or near this vicinity in the early days may be mentioned: Michael Sheehan, James Sheehan, A. Opshall, Gudmund Olson, O. C. Johnson, J. E. Johnson, C. C. Johnson, Erick Johnson, G. W. Skinner, Chris. Kiel, J. W. Peterson, J. P. Larson, Nels Larson, Jens Peterson, Chris. Nelson, Thor Thompson, Peter Peterson and others.

The village of Clarks Grove had its beginning in 1890, when the incorporators of the Clarks Grove Coöperative Creamery selected the northwest corner of P. C. Christianson's farm as the site for the creamery. One year later, pleased with the success of the coöperative idea, a coöperative mercantile company was organized and a store erected near the creamery. Near by was the residence of Charles Peterson, which thus became the first house in the new village. P. C. Christianson's house was about a quarter of a mile away. The postoffice was moved to the new village and quite a settlement sprang up there. In 1900 the railroad came through, and since then the growth of the village has been steady and satisfactory. The village site occupies portions of the farms of Mrs. Charles Peterson, the Christianson brothers and Jens Peterson.

Clarks Grove has a one-story frame school building, erected in 1901, when district 131 was organized. The first officers of the district were: Ole Larson, director; Nels M. Christenson, treasurer; Charles Peterson, clerk. The present officers are: L. P. Hanson, director; Theodore Jorgenson, clerk; Ole Larson, treasurer.

**Clarks Grove Lumber, Fuel & Stock Company.** This company conducts a lumber yard at Clarks Grove and was organized in 1902. The first officers were: President, J. P. Larson; secretary, L. P. Lawson; manager and treasurer, Theodore Jorgenson;



directors, J. C. Johnson, J. W. Peterson, Ole Larson and Julius Larson. The present officers are: President, J. P. Larson; secretary, L. P. Lawson; manager and treasurer, Theodore Jorgenson; directors, Ole Larson, Paul Hanson, J. W. Peterson, A. C. Thompson and Hans Eid.

**Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Company.** This company was organized in 1910 and purchased the Peterson Brothers store. The original officers are still serving as follows: President, J. P. Larson; vice-president, O. C. Johnson; secretary, J. Sorenson; manager and treasurer, A. C. Thompson; directors, Peter Christianson, James Fitzgerald and Ole Larson.

**The Clarks Grove Mercantile Company** was organized in June, 1891. The first officers were: President, J. W. Peterson; secretary, John Nelson; treasurer, H. E. Nelson; manager, John Nelson; directors, J. P. Larson, E. C. Johnson and P. Hanson. The incorporation was renewed in June, 1911. The present officers are: President, J. P. Larson; manager and treasurer, Adolph Johnson; secretary, Andrew Hanson; directors, J. C. Johnson, Ole Larson and C. Madson. This company conducts a prosperous general store in Clarks Grove village, the postoffice also being kept in its establishment.

**Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Bath.** This was organized at a meeting held at the Danish Baptist church on the first of January, 1878. On the fourteenth of the same month it was incorporated under the state law, and seven directors were elected, as follows: H. P. Jensen, N. P. Peterson, John Henderson, Peter Johnson, J. P. Larson, C. F. Peterson and C. Nelson. They met and elected officers of the association as follows: President, H. P. Jensen; secretary, N. P. Peterson; treasurer, C. F. Peterson. The company renewed its charter March 30, 1909. The present officers are: President, J. P. Larson; secretary, N. M. Jensen; treasurer, J. W. Peterson; directors, Erick Barglund, M. J. Paulson, Christ Nelson, A. N. Jensen and N. L. Larson.

### EMMONS VILLAGE.

The village of Emmons is located in the southeast corner of section 32 and the southwest corner of section 33 in Nunda township, adjoining the Iowa state line. It has a church, a farmers' telephone service, a school, a bank and a newspaper. Among the interests of the place may be mentioned: General stores, Emmons Mercantile Company, Olson, Olson & Knutson, Thornby & Olson; blacksmith shops, S. Knutson, Abe Hegland, Isaac Moe; hardware stores, F. L. Marpe, Martin Nelson; restaurants, E. A. Anderson, A. J. Egland; millinery store, Clara Kelly; harness, hardware and farm implement store, Knudson & Olien; shoes and repairing, John R. Langeland; stock dealer, H. H. Emmons; drugs, Southern



Minnesota Drug Company (George W. Marpe, manager and proprietor); barber shop and pool hall, A. Rasmusson; meat market, Singlestad Bros.; mill, Emmons Roller Mills Stock Company; elevator, Western Elevator Company, of Winona; furniture and undertaking store, Gunder & Henry Clemmetson; Emmons Auto Company, Olson & Oppedahl, owners; physician, J. A. Schultz; lumber, Farmers' Lumber Company (William Torry, manager); stock broker, L. H. Emmons; dray line, Iversen & Bergerson.

H. G. Emmons came to section 32, Nunda township, in 1856, and in 1864 the old State Line postoffice was established at his farm. In 1880 his sons started a store on the present site of the village. When it was found that the railroad was not to stop at that point the store was moved a mile south to Norman, in Iowa. In 1886 the store was moved back to the present site of Emmons. The same store still continues, being conducted by the Emmons Mercantile Company. This was the beginning of the village of Emmons. In 1886, soon after the store was moved back from Norman, an elevator was put up, and shortly afterward A. N. Flaten opened a general mercantile and hardware store.

The village of Emmons was incorporated March 14, 1899. At the first election the following officers were elected: President, G. H. Emmons; trustees, Gilbert Iverson, L. H. Emmons and Ed. Emerson; recorder, S. B. Thornby; treasurer, O. H. Knudson; justices, O. N. Olson and C. A. Olien; constables, Andrew Ringham and A. Guthier. The first council meeting was held March 28, 1899. The presidents of the village have been: G. H. Emmons, N. H. Rasmusson, S. B. Thornby, L. H. Emmons, O. H. Knudson, F. E. Yost and C. N. Olson. The present officers are: President, C. N. Olson; trustees, Gunder Clemmetson, Sever Singlestad and T. N. Olson; recorder, A. H. Rasmusson; treasurer, N. H. Rasmusson; justices, T. K. Troe and E. A. Anderson; constables, Henry Becker and Nicholas Nelson. The streets of the village are lighted with gasoline lights. The original city hall was built in 1899, and an addition put on in 1901. The building is a frame structure, one story high. The original part is used as a council chamber and for entertainments of various sorts. In the new part is the engine, the well, and other fire fighting apparatus. This apparatus is looked after and used by a local fire company. The water works for fire protection, and the village drainage sewer were installed in 1901.

It was only after the most strenuous efforts that the people of Emmons succeeded in securing a railroad station at this point. When the M. & St. L. was built through Nunda township in 1879, it seemed probable that a station would be established near the present site of Emmons. But the people of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, voted a five per cent tax to aid in the



construction of the road, and the company agreed in return to open and maintain a station within one mile of the northeast corner of Winnebago county. Accordingly a station was built about a mile south of the site of Emmons. But it became apparent with the passing of the years that a station was needed at Emmons. The village grew in importance, and its freight and passenger business was large. Norman was in an inconvenient location, viewed from the standpoint of the citizens of Emmons, and the passenger service was not of the best. A petition signed by a large number of citizens of the village of Emmons was presented to the Railroad and Warehouse Commission to require the Minneapolis & St. Louis to erect and maintain a station in the village. The commissioners fixed a time and place for the hearing of the respective parties, and after the hearing the commissioners made an order requiring the railroad to maintain a station in the village. The matter was taken to the district court of Freeborn county and the court sustained the order made by the commission and ordered a preëmptory writ of mandamus as requested by the people of the village. The railroad carried the matter to the Supreme Court, on an alleged error, but was again defeated. August 3, 1904, the attorneys for the parties concerned signed an agreement, wherein it was arranged that the station should be established just over the line in Iowa, thus giving the people of Emmons a station which to all intent and purposes was in the village, and at the same time fulfilling the old agreement to maintain a station in Norman township. The station was erected that fall.

**The Emmons Milling Co.** was incorporated September 22, 1908, by Gilbert Iverson, Nels H. Rasmussen, Carl N. Olson, Ole H. Knutson, Theo. N. Olson, W. L. Menge, Aug. Mattick, Henry C. Becker and H. Albert Daw. The present officers are: Gilbert Iverson, president; vice president and manager, T. N. Olson; secretary and treasurer, Nels H. Rasmussen; directors, Gilbert Iverson, T. N. Olson, H. Rasmussen, H. C. Becker, C. H. Olson and O. H. Knudson. The mill was started by E. Emerson. He sold to T. N. Olson and Gilbert Iverson, in 1906, and two years later the company was incorporated. The company makes a specialty of the "Snowflake" flour.

**District 44** has a four-room schoolhouse in the village of Emmons, the present trustees being H. Clemmetson, treasurer; O. H. Knudson, director; Peter Tvieta, clerk.

**The Emmons Mercantile Co.** had its real beginning when George H. Emmons and L. H. Emmons put up the first store in the village of Emmons. The present company was formally incorporated January 21, 1910, George H. Emmons, Carl G. Emmons and Andrew O. Dahlen being the incorporators. George H.



Emmons is the present president and Carl G. Emmons the present secretary and treasurer.

### **FREEBORN VILLAGE.**

Freeborn village is a pleasantly located hamlet with a bank, two churches, a creamery, a four-roomed schoolhouse, two general stores, a blacksmith shop, a livery, an elevator, a hotel, a barber shop, a meat market, a town hall, erected in 1902, and a Modern Woodmen of America hall. It also has three fraternities, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Modern Brotherhood of America, and the Royal Neighbors of America. A fine new bank building now in the progress of erection will be an architectural ornament to the village. The general stores are conducted by Gilmore & Purdie and Boland & Brooks. The elevator is owned by the Huntting Elevator Co. The hotel is conducted by Bert D. Jones, while the livery stable is conducted by John A. Strever.

The people of Freeborn village are justly proud of their fine school. A four-roomed building in 1908 replaced the edifice erected in 1876, and a semi-graded school is maintained here. The board consists of George P. Lattin, John Purdie and Isaac Stensrud.

The officers of the cemetery are: President, I. H. Seath; treasurer, F. M. Snyder; secretary, O. S. Gilmore; actuary, George P. Lattin.

The site of the village of Freeborn was taken as a town site in 1857 by Edward S. Dunn and George F. Rickard. Dunn built a cabin on the town site, while Rickard put up a claim shanty over the line in Carlston. That same year L. T. Scott erected a hotel on the lake shore, and here opened the postoffice. The first religious services in the village were held at this hotel by an itinerate preacher who chanced to stop at the hotel, and was offered free accommodations if he would stay over Sunday and preach. The same year Clark & West opened a store on the site now occupied by the residence of Rev. Wilbur Fisk. In 1859 David Southwick opened a store in Scott's hotel. This was the beginning of the village of Freeborn.

In 1882 Freeborn village had two general stores kept by M. A. Southwick and O. S. Gillmore; a blacksmith shop by D. A. Scoville; a wagon repair shop by J. H. Clarke; a broom factory by L. T. Scott; and a shoemaking shop by A. Andrews.

### **GLENVILLE VILLAGE.**

Glenville is the name applied to a village in sections 6 and 7, Shell Rock township, combining the old village of Shell Rock, and a locality known as Woodside, which was surveyed in 1878



by H. C. Lacy on land owned by George Hyatt. The village is incorporated, and has four churches, a creamery, a school, a telephone system, a fine city hall, two banks, a fire company, a newspaper and the usual business houses and residences. Among the activities of the village may be mentioned: Four general stores, D. J. Roberts, Frank Flusek, E. H. Moore and Charles Jarsa; two elevators, G. A. Swan (James P. Olson, manager), and the Western Elevator Co. (E. P. Howe, manager); two blacksmith shops, Charles Gillard and Theodore Knuteson; furniture and undertaking, O. D. Koontz; confectionery, D. R. Loudon; two meat markets, A. Negord and Fred Morrison; boots and shoes, Joseph Kuchera; harnesses, Nicholas Franke; implement shop, Walter Knutson; restaurant, Joseph Siverling; restaurant and bakery, William Baldwin; drugs, Glenville Drug Co. (Dr. J. P. Freeman, manager); pool hall and barber shop, George Mariner; barber shop, V. H. Erickson; rooms, Charles Eckert; variety store, J. A. Bly; hardware store and lumber yard, Jay Bartlett. The churches are: Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, United Brethren and Norwegian Methodist. The Norwegian Lutherans have a congregation and hold services in the United Brethren church.

The village of Glenville was incorporated in 1898. The first council meeting was held June 15, 1898, the first officers being: President, H. N. Thurston; trustees, J. W. Nelson, L. Joppa and Walter Knutson; recorder, James J. Eglund; treasurer, E. H. Moore; justices, Moses Lemons and A. H. Bartlett; constables, George Bailey and H. C. Cottrell. The present officers of the village are: President, Walter Knutson; trustees, William Young, Charles Gillard and Theodore Knuteson; recorder, E. P. Howe; treasurer, E. H. Moore; justices, J. A. Bly and Geo. McGrath; constable, E. R. Sweet.

The village hall is a two-story frame building, having a hall for council chambers and entertainment purposes, and suitable room for the fire apparatus, which is looked after by a well trained volunteer fire company. The streets of the village are lighted by gas.

The settlement of the locality surrounding the village has been treated at length in another place; so it will be unnecessary to refer to it here. In July, 1856, A. H. Bartlett came through this region in search for a village site and a suitable place for the construction of a mill. He was pleased with the locations of both St. Nicholas and Northwood; but money would not induce the proprietors of these prospective places to quit claim to their interests. In following the river Mr. Bartlett came to the site of Shell Rock, and commenced laying plans for the establishment of the village. John Smith and Frederick Cutler each donated



twenty acres to the project, and Mr. Bartlett at once proceeded to survey and record eighty acres in lots and blocks as the village of Shell Rock. He next commenced the erection of a water saw-mill on the banks of the river, with a building 20x80, frame, equipping it with a 56-inch buzz saw. The water power did not succeed as anticipated, so a steam power of thirty horse was placed in it and the mill for two years continued piling up sawdust, when the timber became exhausted and the property was sold to William Morin and moved to Albert Lea, from where it has since continued its journey toward the setting sun.

Just before the saw-mill was completed, and while Mr. Bartlett was in the east procuring machinery, E. P. Skinner laid out a town under the caption of Shell Rock, a short distance north of Mr. Bartlett's proposed site, in the town of Hayward.

This promised to be quite a formidable rival to the present village, as a postoffice and store were established there; but on Mr. Bartlett's return negotiations were entered into which were finally completed, by which E. P. Skinner got one-fourth interest in Bartlett's site, and the postoffice, store and goods were removed to the latter place. At that time the store was run by R. A. Cornish, who was also made postmaster. This store was continued for a number of years. George Whitman next put in a stock of goods and kept a store for about one year, when he went out of business. A. H. Bartlett then bought the building and Victor Gillrup conducted a store there several years.

But little was done toward the development of the town until the railroad was built through in 1877, when the progress really took root. W. H. Peck came with the railroad, and opened a provision store which he continued for three or four years. H. G. Koontz also came about the same time, and opened the business called the "Variety Store." L. B. Woodruff opened a general merchandise store. P. F. Brown opened the first hardware store, and sold to W. H. Peck, who in turn, in 1881, turned it over to Greengo & Landis. John Haugh started a harness shop. In the spring of 1878, C. T. Knapp opened a meat market.

The first hotel was erected in 1856, by James Luff, and consisted of logs and clay. In this Mr. Luff entertained travelers. When the railroad was constructed, E. P. Kelly remodeled it, and it is now run by H. T. Chase. In 1877, Dr. H. H. Wilcox opened a drug store. A hotel was erected the same year by William Beatty. A. H. Bartlett was the first and only lawyer of Shell Rock. It is interesting to note that in August, 1857, the first bridge in the county was put across the Shell Rock river at the present site of Glenville.

The Glenville schoolhouse is a four-room, two-story structure, erected in 1899, at which time the committee consisted of Ole M.



Nelson, director; E. S. Hostetter, clerk; and A. C. Trow, treasurer. The present board consists of: E. H. Moore, director; E. P. Howe, clerk; and Jay Bartlett, treasurer.

**The Acorn Brick and Tile Co.**, recently established, bids fair to be one of the important industries of the county.

**The Glenville Firemen's Relief Association** was organized October 5, 1908. The first officers were: President, Oscar Lang; vice president, Robert Walker; secretary, E. P. Howe; treasurer, W. S. McConnell; trustees, O. C. Hanson, Theodore Knuteson and George McGrath. The present officers are: President, A. G. Morgan; vice president, N. C. Siverling; secretary, E. P. Howe; treasurer, Oscar Lang; trustees, T. Knuteson and George McGrath.

### GENEVA VILLAGE.

In spite of the fact that Geneva has missed the advantages of a railroad, it is nevertheless a flourishing hamlet, and a desirable place of residence. It has a beautiful situation on Lake Geneva in Geneva township, and contains a creamery, a school, several churches, three stores and some excellent residences. John T. Robson and Svend Svendsen keep a general store, William C. Gruetzmacher keeps a hardware store; Henry G. Gay sells groceries and novelties; C. B. Wheeler keeps the Geneva House; Hans C. Hanson sells meats, and Frank E. Schad conducts the blacksmith shop. The names of Jones, Stacy, Gibbs and Robson, which are well known in the county, were for many years connected with Geneva village.

The village of Geneva was platted in the winter of 1856-57 by James F. Jones and James Robson, on section 8, and contained about 400 acres. In the spring of 1857, Jones and Robson started business and put up a store and hotel. They soon, however, dissolved partnership. Mr. Jones later formed a partnership with C. H. McIntire; but they afterwards sold out to Cabot & Lester, who continued the business but a short time, when they went to Martin county with their goods. Messrs. Lohyed and Matison put up a store and placed a stock of goods in it. They soon sold out and it changed hands several times; finally it was purchased by Charles Kittleson, later state treasurer, and was burned while he owned it. George and Warren Osborne began merchandising in 1865, and continued one year, when George secured his brother's interest, conducted it alone one year and then turned over his stock to Charles Kittleson. The only store in town in 1882 was kept by Archibald Chamberlain, and was first opened by Dwight Brooks in 1880. In 1857 Bernhard Schad and George Drommerhausen started a blacksmith and wagon shop. Wagons and plows, custom work and general repairing were their specialties. In about a year Schad became sole proprietor.



The hotel which had been built was leased to Isaac Lyons, who opened it in 1858, and managed it for a year or two and then sold to O. A. Jones, of Fillmore county. His father, H. R. Jones, kept it one winter and then his son, James F. Jones, bought and moved into it. In 1857, a saloon was opened.

### **GORDONSVILLE VILLAGE.**

The starting of Gordonsville, as a village, was coincident with the coming of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern in 1877, although a postoffice of the same name had been established near by many years before. J. W. Abbott erected the first building and put in a small stock of merchandise. The postoffice was also opened in the same building with J. W. Abbott as postmaster. In the same year John Fallon started a blacksmith shop. A railroad station was also erected. This station stood until 1910, when it was destroyed by fire, a new structure now occupying the same site. In 1882, Herman Frost erected a one-story building and opened a store, consolidating Abbott's stock with his own. He also became postmaster. Two warehouses were also erected.

The village of Gordonsville is located in the northeast corner of section 32, Shell Rock township, on land originally owned by S. P. and Jacob Beighley. It is on the line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, the Iowa Central also using the same tracks. The village has a church, a school, a creamery, a bank, a local telephone exchange, the usual business houses and several residences. Among the activities of the village may be mentioned: Three general stores, Neem Nelson, D. L. Klove and E. K. Fodness; restaurants, Edw. Flatt, S. M. Beighley; blacksmithing and woodworking, Fred Pierce; lumber, fuel, tile and cement, Gordonsville Lumber Co.; elevator, Thompson & Heiney (W. D. Lamb, agent), dray line, E. J. Carter; stock buyer, William Buchanan.

The Gordonsville school is a frame structure of one room. The present board consists of P. Nelson, clerk; F. A. Pierce, treasurer; A. Flatt, secretary.

There are three fraternities in Gordonsville, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors of America, and the Mystic Toilers.

### **HARTLAND VILLAGE.**

Hartland is an incorporated village in Hartland township, being one of the largest villages in the county. It has the usual business houses and improvements, and is a most desirable place of residence.

**Early Settlement.**—The land upon which the village of Hartland stands was originally farm land belonging to Torger Samuel-



son. When the railroad was built through here in 1877 A. E. Johnson bought twenty acres of the land west of the railroad and platted it into town lots. At the same time Wm. Morin, of Albert Lea, platted part of his farm east of the track and for a time there was a merry town site fight. Buildings sprung up on both sides, but an agreement was finally reached and Mr. Morin bought land west of the Johnson site and platted it and the business centered on the west side. The first building in the village was moved from Manchester township by A. J. Anderson, now of Bentonville, Ark., who conducted a boarding house for several months and then sold it to Matt Madson. Shortly afterward, Grinager & Hovland erected a one-story building 20x80 and started a general merchandise store. It was in October the same year that Scarseth & Lee opened a \$4,000 stock of goods, two years later Oluf Lee taking over the business and continuing it successfully for many years. Mr. Lee committed suicide in Minneapolis four years ago. Other businesses and buildings followed, E. S. Dunn moving a building from Freeborn and opening a small stock of drugs. He sold to Hovland & Nelson, who later disposed of the business to Dr. M. Torkelson, father of Mrs. M. L. Head and Mrs. Oscar Thykeson, of Manchester. Hoff & Seim moved a building and stock of goods from the Louis Knutson farm east of town. Later this store was conducted by Siem & Hufland. Ed Wicks managed a lumber yard here in 1877 for W. P. Sargeant, of Albert Lea. Ole Fossum opened the first hardware store in 1878. Later Chris. Christopherson erected the building now occupied by Sam Samuelson and started another hardware business, buying out the Fossum stock and added it to his own. In 1878 the hotel, now the American House, was built and conducted by Henry Crandall. Oluf Rushfeldt started a harness shop the same year. The changes since the starting of the village have been too numerous to trace accurately, but the foregoing gives the facts regarding the very earliest events of the village as near as can be obtained.

The Hartland postoffice was removed from the Louis Knutson farm, about which had centered business, school and church affairs, in 1877, J. C. Hoff being postmaster at that time. Ole A. Siem was the next postmaster and has been followed in succession by Oluf Hovland, Dr. M. Torkelson, Margaret Torkelson, R. M. Gardner, Dr. M. L. Head, and H. M. Wulff.

**Incorporation.**—As an incorporated village Hartland has been in existence since 1893. After the articles of incorporation had been filed the first meeting of trustees took place Thursday evening, September 28, 1893. Those who responded to the roll call on that occasion were: Oluf Lee, president; I. E. Sorlie, recorder; J. O. Kvenvold, J. C. Sybilrud, E. H. Stensrud. Other village officers chosen at the first election were: S. S. Tviet, jus-



tice of the peace; Adolph W. Hanson, treasurer; L. Grove, constable; A. J. Stensvad, street commissioner and constable. In March, 1894, were elected Oluf Lee, president; J. W. Donovan, recorder; P. P. Gomsrud, T. C. Nolan, S. Samuelson, trustees; A. M. Larberg, treasurer; John Amundson, Richard Donovan, constables. The first meeting place of the trustees was in the Donovan Bros.' hall, for which a rental of 50 cents a night was paid. In 1894 it was decided to erect a village hall for council meetings and fire apparatus. The contract was let to Johanus Rue for \$265, and this building was used until the first of this year. In 1901 the citizens, by a vote of 39 to 33, authorized the installation of a water system, the original contract price for a 1,500 barrel tank raised 100 feet high on substantial iron supports, eight horse power gasoline engine and engine house, being \$5,300. Water main extensions and improvements place the value of the system at the present time at between \$9,000 and \$10,000. There are about 2,000 feet of mains and nine fire hydrants conveniently located in various parts of the village. In 1908 a new village hall was erected. The building faces Broadway on the same lots occupied by the pumping station and water tank presenting a 40 foot front, two stories high with bell tower on south-east corner. The edifice is 60 feet in length, built of brick and stone. The jail occupies 25x30 feet in the rear of the first floor and meets all requirements of the state for the safe keeping of prisoners, being fire-proofed by heavy brick walls, cement floors and cement, brick and iron ceiling. Two steel cells are provided.

The front ground floor room, 25x40, has cement floor and is used as a meeting place for the fire company and housing for the apparatus. On the second floor the rooms are of the same size, the rear and smaller room being used as quarters for the village marshal and council room. The front room is devoted to public assemblages and the like, and is handsomely finished, has high ceiling and is well lighted. The building was erected at a cost of \$5,300 by the local contractor, Ole Fennefos. The council under whose direction the hall was planned and built was composed of H. M. Christopherson, president; P. H. Donovan, recorder; L. Borgen, Lars Grove and O. J. Madson, trustees.

**Fire Department.**—A fire company was first organized in 1894, the officers at that time being, Knute Olson, chief; John J. Rue, assistant chief; J. W. Donovan, secretary. This company became disorganized later on and in 1897 a new company was formed with J. E. St. John, chief, John H. Hanson, assistant chief; M. L. Head, treasurer; A. H. Siblerud, secretary. John H. Hanson later became chief and served for four years. Up until the water system was installed a "Water Witch" hand pump apparatus was used. The department at present is well equipped for fight-



ing the flames. Sufficient pressure is given through the water mains from the tank and additional water and force can be supplied by connecting the engine to the mains. About 700 feet of hose are on hand, two hose carts, six ladders and two hand chemical extinguishers.

**Schools.**—Hartland has an excellent school which has increased from a one-roomed district school to a state graded school, giving a two years' high school course. Torger Samuelson circulated the petition for the establishment of the district in 1878 and the first officers were: Torger Samuelson, director; Olaf Lee, clerk; Jacob Grenager, treasurer. The school building was built the same fall and is the same building now owned by Rev. J. J. Strand and occupied by Carl Christopherson as a residence. F. E. Phipps, Sr., taught the school in the years 1878-9 and 1890-91. Mr. Hill, of Albert Lea, succeeded him for one year. Roanna Challis had charge of the school the next year, Mr. Phipps the year following, and after Jessie Scoville had served two years Mr. Phipps was employed for three successive years. In 1889 the school was graded and S. J. Fuller and Rogn Thorkeldson were employed as teachers. In 1904, the third year under the principalship of Catharine Connors, the new four-room school house with basement was built. It is a handsome building, beautifully located on high ground and surrounded on all sides by a grove. The grounds were purchased from Wm. Morin, after a regular school election at which the people voted to buy grounds, build the new schoolhouse and dispose of the old building and grounds. The cost of building was \$5,352.47. Eric Severson had the building contract. The school board at this time was composed of J. C. Sybilrud, director; H. M. Christopherson, treasurer; S. Samuelson, clerk. In 1906 four departments were established and the two years high school course was inaugurated by Miss Connors.

### LONDON VILLAGE.

The village of London is located on the Illinois Central line, in the northwest quarter of section 25, London township. Previous to the starting of this village, the old hamlet of London had been located near the cornering of sections 11, 12, 13 and 14. In 1900, when the Albert Lea and Southern, now operated by the Illinois Central was put through, a new village was started on William Morin's farm, the plat being surveyed by Frank H. Fisk and filed for record at the courthouse, October 16, 1900. The village now consists of two general stores, one implement store, one hardware store, a bank, a creamery, a lumber yard, a harness shop, a blacksmith shop, a railroad station, a hotel, a church, two elevators, and several residences. Two lodges, the Modern



Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors also flourish here. A two-roomed brick schoolhouse, with basement is now under course of construction. The first building to go up in this village was the railroad station. The first business house was the office of the London Lumber Co. Rudolf Isaacs, manager of this company, was the first resident of the village. In 1905 this concern was purchased by the F. I. Crane Lumber Co., of Austin, and is still in operation. Soon after the erection of the lumber office, N. H. Nelson erected a general store and commenced business in 1901. He is still in business here, and is also postmaster, the office being located in his store. The other general store is conducted by T. S. Johnson. The hardware merchant is S. Hyatt. The blacksmith is Chris Skjeveland. The hotel is kept by Hans Madsen. The older elevator is owned by John Lucas, and was erected in 1900. The newer elevator is owned by the Speltz Bros. M. S. Skamfer keeps the harness shop. The implement merchant is S. H. Helgerson.

### MANCHESTER VILLAGE.

The village of Manchester is located in section 15, in the township of that name, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis. It has a town hall, a fireman's hall used for theatrical and social purposes, a bank, a creamery, an insurance company, a railroad station, a Lutheran school (kept in the town hall when the district school is not in session), a postoffice, kept by Mrs. E. O. Fossum, a hotel kept by the same lady, an elevator, a general store, a hardware store, a blacksmith shop, several residences, an excellent fire company, good sidewalks, and gas street lighting. Knute Slette, for many years postmaster, operates the elevator for Everett, Aughenbaugh & Co.; the general store is owned by Gunder Haakenson, Lytho Hartz and John A. Thykeson; the hardware store is operated and owned by Andrew Knudson, and the blacksmith shop is owned and operated by Herman Hanson.

The village was originally platted in 1882 by Ole Peterson. It was replatted and surveyed in 1898 by H. W. Fish, the owners at that time being: Knute Slette, Claus Flindt, Ole O. Olson, Ole O. Myran, Jens Johnson, Kittel Halvorson, Even A. Lybeck, Bernhard Anderson, Hagan Torgerson and Manchester Creamery Co.

In 1877 Cosgan & White erected an elevator which was moved to section 23 soon after its erection, but was later moved back to the village. In 1878, Anton Anderson erected a blacksmith shop, 24x28 feet, and commenced blowing the bellows. In the fall of 1881, an addition was erected, 12x28 feet, for a wagon shop, and an engine house, 10x12 feet, in which was placed a five horse-power steam engine to run the machinery. In February, 1878, a building was erected by H. R. Fossum and E. H. Stensrud,



and a good stock of dry goods, groceries, and general merchandise was placed upon the shelves. In May, 1878, the postoffice was established.

### OTHER VILLAGES.

**Armstrong Village** came into existence in 1878, at the instigation of T. H. Armstrong, who that year erected an elevator. A store building was also built the same spring by Jason T. Goward. A postoffice was established in 1882, and G. H. Kenerson was appointed postmaster. In 1879, a Mr. Dewey erected a blacksmith shop, but left in 1880. The railroad company erected the depot in 1879, and it was opened with P. D. Barticus, station agent. For many years B. A. Cady kept a store here. T. E. Flaskerud is now the village merchant. The village at the present time contains a station, a store, an elevator, a creamery, and several houses. The village is located in section 4, Pickerel Lake township.

**Bath Village** is a small settlement located on the line between sections 7 and 8, Bath township. It consists of a store, a creamery, a school, a Catholic church, and a cemetery. The postoffice is discontinued.

**Clover Village.** The hamlet of Clover is located in section 33, Pickerel Lake township. It has a creamery and a store. Not far away is the German Lutheran church and a schoolhouse. The settlement is located on land owned by William P. Pickle. The history of the church and creamery appears elsewhere. The general store was erected in 1890 by William P. Pickle, and after passing through several hands is now conducted by George Enser.

**Conger** is a small village about ten miles west of Albert Lea. It has a postoffice, a bank, a creamery, a lumber yard, a hardware store and a general store.

**Crayon Park** is located in the central part of section 6, Oakland township.

**Corning** lies on the line between Newry and Moscow townships, but is largely in Mower county.

**Hayward Village.** This pretty hamlet is located in section 9, Hayward township, on the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. Some time after the railroad was put through, it seemed desirable to establish a trading point at this place, consequently a store was opened by Oliver Nelson, a small station was built by the railroad company, and a warehouse constructed. The village was platted and surveyed by William A. Morin, on the land of Thomas H. Armstrong, and filed for record, October 12, 1886. The village now has a station, a postoffice, three stores, an elevator, a creamery, a blacksmith shop, a feed mill, a bank, a hotel, and a number of residences. The his-



tory of the creamery, the two-roomed school, and the flourishing bank are given elsewhere, as is that of the church. The elevator is owned by the Farmers' Elevator Company, the two general stores by S. Skaug and H. W. Anderson, and the feed mill by Anton Runden. The hardware store, owned for so many years by Vegger Gulbrandson, is now conducted by R. M. Gulbrandson.

**Deer Creek** is a hamlet in Iowa, just south of section 33, in London township.

**Lerdal** is a hamlet centered about a creamery, nine miles northeast of Albert Lea. The postoffice has been discontinued.

**Mansfield** is a settlement centering about a creamery nine miles south of Alden in Mansfield township. The postoffice has been discontinued.

**Newry Village** is located in the southern part of section 9, Newry township.

**Moscow Village.** In June, 1857, this little town was conceived, and was laid out in lots and blocks by Daniel Johnson, surveyor, for the proprietors, Nathan Owens, Benjamin Lindsey, and David M. Farr. It is located near the center of section 22, Moscow township. A postoffice under the name of Moscow was established at the village in 1858, with John G. Dunning as postmaster, and office at David Farr's house, in section 22. In 1866, Joseph James, John Chandler, and James Dyrlyn, put in machinery and commenced operating a steam saw-mill near the main part of the village. In 1879, Arthur Sanderson and his son, George, erected a two-story frame building for a store and tenement, and in January, 1880, put in a good stock of general merchandise.

Moscow now consists of a creamery, a two-story schoolhouse, a store, and several dwellings.

**Myrtle Village** is located in the western part of London township, in section 7, on the Illinois Central railroad. It is a thriving hamlet with a bank, a creamery, a postoffice, a railroad station, two churches, and the usual business houses. In 1900, when the railroad came through, William A. Morin purchased forty acres, and the station was erected on his property. The village also occupies a part of the farm of A. A. Schuhmacher. Before the coming of the railroad, the hamlet of Myrtle centered around the postoffice in section 8. After the building of the railroad station, W. Birch and S. White erected a general store, and started business in 1900. In 1901, C. W. Hanson erected a general store. He still occupies this store, being also postmaster of the village. A brief directory of the village is as follows: Churches, United Brethren and Danish Lutheran; general stores, E. C. Robinson, C. W. Hanson; the Eclipse Lumber Co., manager, O. L. Meyers; elevator, Speltz Bros., agent, A. Lang; stock buyer, A. Lang; black-



smith, Carl Johnson; feed mill, A. Hanson; harness shop, John Belshon; hardware and implement store, A. E. Samen. The history of the bank and creamery is found elsewhere.

**Oakland Village.** This village is located on the line between Moscow and Oakland, on the original S. N. Frisbie claim. It was started soon after the railroad was put through in 1879. Oakland is now a little hamlet with two general stores, two elevators, two churches, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, and other buildings. Alfred E. Denby was long associated with the village of Oakland, having built a store here and lived here for many years. The plat of Oakland was surveyed in section 2, township 102, range 19, by H. C. Lacy, in 1885, on land owned by W. W. Cargill.

**Twin Lake Village** is located in section 12, Nunda township, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis, its situation being at the outlet of one of the lakes which gives the village its name. Frederick McCall is the leading citizen of the village, and is widely known as the philosopher-poet of Twin Lakes. His daughter, Margaret A., conducts the general store. There is a grain elevator here, and the business houses usually found in a place of this size. The land upon which the village now stands originally belonged to William Wilson and J. M. Tanner. The first plat came into existence in 1858, at the instigation of Augustus Armstrong, and was laid into lots on the land of William Banning, but as no growth was developed, and no interest in the little village manifested, the lots and blocks were finally reclaimed as a farm. Matters ran along in this way, nothing being done in regard to it until 1869, when a surveyor again made his appearance and the lots and blocks of the village were again brought into existence, about 80 rods north of the old plat, on land of Wilson and Tanner as above stated, and in the fall of this year John Donahue and William Knudtson erected the first business house and opened a stock of groceries and general merchandise. A store was opened by Frederick McCall in March, 1863, at his residence in section 14, and the Twin Lake postoffice, originally known as Nunda, was also kept here. In 1877, the business was moved to the village. In the fall of 1875, Peter Donahue opened a general store. In 1870, William Beatty assisted in the growth of the village and erected a hotel, which he conducted until 1877 and then sold it to Ole Nelson. In 1868, a building was erected and a blacksmith shop put into operation. In a few years it was transferred to the Booth Brothers, who conducted it for a year and then sold to B. H. Carter and John Donahue, who operated it for several years in partnership, and then Mr. Donahue purchased the entire business and still manages the concern.

A mill was erected at an early day, and later a schoolhouse.



The railroad pushed its way through the village, and a depot and elevator followed, with the accompanying advantages, and with the years the hamlet assumed its present proportions.

In 1857, a saw mill was erected in the northern part of the southwest quarter of section 12, where the village was afterwards laid out, by William Banning and others, and commenced operations with a forty-horse water power, making a capacity for cutting 1,000 feet per day. In 1863, David Perry, who owned an interest in the mill, took charge of it, employing B. H. Carter and increasing the capacity to 1,500 feet per day. After conducting it a short time he transferred it to Augustus Armstrong and J. M. Tanner. After this Mr. Tanner ran it for a time and in 1868 sold one-half interest to William Wilson, and soon after the other half was also transferred. The latter gentleman at once commenced the erection of a flouring mill, which was completed in due time and became a valuable enterprise.

### **BANCROFT AND ITASCA.**

**Bancroft Village.** In the fall of 1856 Morton S. Wilkinson, acting for a party of men prominent in territorial affairs, platted a village in sections 28 and 29, Bancroft township, with the intention of there establishing the county seat. In fact, the bill which organized the county originally provided that Bancroft should be the county seat, but this "joker" was discovered and the clause repealed. The Bancroft Land Company was incorporated in November, 1856, with the following officers: L. Emmett, president; Charles Oldson, A. G. Blackman, Charles Enness and W. H. Oliver, trustees. These persons were, however, figureheads, and the real promoters were much more prominent men. When David Blakely reached Bancroft in 1857 for the purpose of establishing the "Bancroft Pioneer," he found on the village site a shanty and a saw mill. Soon, however, the agent, W. N. Oliver, erected a fine house, then the best in the county. A store was also erected, Charles Etheridge being the master builder. This store was nominally in charge of W. N. Oliver for the town site company, but was really conducted by Moses Comfort, who was also sworn in as deputy postmaster, Mr. Oliver being the postmaster. The story of the county seat contest has been told. Gradually the village site was abandoned and finally, being put up at auction for unpaid taxes, the property passed into the possession of the county, 100 acres still being used as a poor farm. A previous history has published what is purported to be a history of Bancroft, and it is here preserved for future reference, although little substantiation has been found for many of the statements contained therein:

"Thomas Edgar erected the first store in the spring of 1857



and put in a stock of goods. This building was removed to Austin in 1859. The first building put up on the village site was a shanty erected just previous to the store, in 1857, by W. N. Oleson. He had first lived in a 'dug-out,' to which he brought his wife, but finally gave up this mode of life and became civilized. Oleson brought his wife from Shell Rock on a hand sled, as the snow was so deep. E. D. Porter opened a blacksmith shop, and J. V. Perry started the practice of law. A steam saw mill was moved to the village from Hastings by the town site company, which was set up and operated by B. F. Ross and Addison Caswell. The cost of the mill was about \$2,500, it occupying a building 20x40, and for two years the mill kept piling up the sawdust of hard wood; but the entire concern was finally, in 1859, sold for taxes. The town site company commenced soon after the erection of a hotel by digging a cellar; but this was a failure and was given up. A saloon was started and had a brief existence."

**Itasca Village.** This village, sometimes incorrectly spelled "Itaskā" in the early days and also known as Freeborn Springs, had a most interesting history. Its location was on the picturesque Paradise prairie, mentioned by Col. Albert Miller Lea as one of the most beautiful spots he had ever seen. In 1855, Charles C. Colby settled in section 6, Albert Lea township, and took land in section 31, Bancroft township, upon which the village was afterward platted. Later Samuel Batchelder secured land in the same locality. A. M. Burnham came from Shell Rock in 1857 and started booming the village. He erected an expensive house and made an effort to secure for his village the county seat location. In 1857 a postoffice was established under the name of Freeborn Springs, with C. C. Colby as postmaster, and for a time matters seemed very prosperous. When Bancroft was abandoned as a village, buildings were moved from there to Itasca, and in 1860 the "Freeborn Springs Herald" was started. But the village was defeated in the contest, and the beautiful grounds of the Wedge Nurseries now occupy the site, some of the apple trees of that nursery having been planted by Samuel Batchelder, one of the original owners of the land on which the village was platted. The names of Colby, Batchelder, Botsford, Burnham, Hall, Dunbar and Longworth were prominently identified with the early history of the village.

### THREE FORMER VILLAGES.

**Sumner Village.** In 1857, a village was laid out into lots in section 31, Moscow township, by Rufus K. Crum, and recorded under this caption. A postoffice was also established the same year, with George Watson as postmaster, which was continued until 1876, Aaron McKune being the last mail-handler. In 1858,



Mr. Crum, the proprietor of the embryo city, erected a house on the village site and used to entertain travelers. But all of no avail; gradually the interest, even of the town proprietors, weakened, and the village of Sumner became a thing of the past, and the fond hopes for lots, blocks, stores, schools and churches were abandoned, and the surer and more practical plan of making money, by transforming the imaginary lots and blocks into fields of corn and wheat, was resorted to.

**St. Nicholas.** This was the first village in the county and was started by Ly Brand and Thompson in 1855. Its history is told elsewhere.

**Fairfield Village.** A village under this name was platted by Samuel Beardsley on the south shore of Rice Lake, in section 15, on a proposed road from Fairfield to Shell Rock. A postoffice was established and a regular mail route; it was on the same section as was the saw mill, and everything looked promising for rapid growth; but the railway never came and the village became a thing of the past.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### **FREEBORN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS.**

**Location—Natural Features—First Settlement—Stories of the Pioneer Days—Town Organizations—Interesting Events—Albert Lea—Alden—Bath—Carlston—Freeborn—Freeman—Geneva — Hartland — Hayward — London — Manchester — Mansfield — Moscow — Nunda — Newry — Oakland — Pickerel Lake—Riceland—Shell Rock.**

Freeborn county has twenty townships, the town government of all conforming with the congressional township lines. While much of the story of the towns, especially that of the organization, land claims and boundary lines, is given elsewhere, it has been the intention of this chapter to take up the various townships separately, to describe the soil features, and to mention the names of such old settlers as are remembered, also relating some of the incidents of pioneer days. The histories of the creameries, the churches and other subjects relating to these townships appear under their respective names in other chapters. The story of the old settlers is told in the biographical chapters.

### **ALBERT LEA TOWNSHIP.**

This township is the southern of the two center towns of the county, Bancroft being its comrade on the north, with Riceland impinging on the northeast, Hayward on the east, Shell Rock to the southeast, Freeman on the south, Nunda to the southwest, Pickerel Lake on the west and Manchester to the northwest. It coincides with the original government survey, having thirty-six sections. The principal river is the Shell Rock, which flows in an average direction toward the southeast, diagonally through the township. Lake Albert Lea is the largest body of water in town, and was once a magnificent sheet, with its irregular but gently curving outline and undulating surrounding meadows and hillside. Most of it lies in the town, but its length is about eight miles. Pickerel lake also laps over into its territory, as does White's lake, which Albert Miller Lea first called Lake Chapeau. Goose lake, a compact little body of water, may be found in section three. Fountain lake is an artificial pond created by the mill dam originally erected by Geo. S. Ruble. It hugs around



the northern side of the city in a curvilinear way, and with its graceful foliage, at various points coming down to the water's edge, presents one of the most pleasing views to be found in all southern Minnesota.

**Early Settlement.** The early settlement of the town and village are treated under the chapter found elsewhere, entitled "Early Albert Lea." The history of the founding of St. Nicholas, and the settlement in the southern part of the township are also given in another place in this work.

**Organization.** The first town meeting of Albert Lea was held May 11, 1858. No record appears in the town archives as to the results of this election, but from the subsequent minutes, it would appear that the officers were: Supervisors, Dr. A. C. Wedge (chairman), Bernard McCarthy and Charles T. Knapp; justices of the peace, Julius Clark (resigned same year and returned to his home in Ohio), H. D. Brown; town clerk, Daniel G. Parker. It would appear that the chairman had the custody of the town funds. Leander Cooley was probably the first assessor elected by the town, although previous to that there had been district assessors.

Among those prominent in township affairs in the early days may be mentioned: A. C. Wedge, William Kellar, D. G. Parker, John Brownsill, Bernard McCarthy, Luther Parker, H. T. Smith, T. J. Sheehan, Chauncy Cooley, Thomas Smith, Reuben Williams, H. D. Brown, A. B. Webber, Joseph France, E. C. Stacy, J. D. Dudley, Samuel Eaton, George Thompson, Francis Hall, John Wood, A. Armstrong, Charles T. Knapp, James E. Smith, William Morin, Reuben Williams, O. P. Kenfield, J. G. Godley, H. M. Manley, W. J. Martin, A. W. St. John, George Whitman, D. K. Stacy, A. M. Tyrer, John Ross, F. B. Fobes, Charles Kittleson, William Hazelton, Ole I. Ellingson, Joseph Green, G. D. Ball, Lewis Hagen, M. M. Luce, A. E. Johnson, W. C. Lincoln, Joseph P. Greene, D. N. Gates, C. G. Jonsrud, and D. R. P. Hibbs. At one time in the history of the town, the powers of the town board were enlarged by the legislature, and numerous ordinances were adopted to be in force in the village. October 8, 1864, the town voted \$25 to each volunteer duly credited, and \$225 was paid on that account.

**Town Hall.** On the incorporation of the city of Albert Lea in the spring of 1878, those town officers residing in the city, which included all but John C. Ross, a supervisor, resigned, and the vacancies were filled by appointinent. The general election in November, of this year, by special law, was held in the court house, where all town elections had previously been held. The first annual town meeting after the incorporation of the city, was held March 11, 1879, at the home of Mrs. E. Wanna-



maker, on section 20. At this time, by resolution, the board was directed to procure a site, and build a town hall at a cost not exceeding \$500.00. A lot was procured of C. M. Hewitt, at the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, and a suitable building was erected at a cost of \$300.00. This building is still used for town purposes.

**Blackmer Bridge.** What is today known as the Blackmer bridge, on Lake boulevard, now in the city of Albert Lea, but for many years in the township, was first built in May, 1863, Franklin Blackmer, Daniel Hurd and S. S. Sutton being the contractors. It being so near the Blackmer home, Dr. Blackmer naturally took much interest in having it a substantial bridge. Splendid large timbers were framed, but instead of driving piles, bents were framed, resting on the bottom of the lake. In a short time muskrats undermined the bents, and soon the bridge leaned over to one side, making it impassable for teams. In 1877 the town made an earth filling, and it has been a substantial affair ever since. It was originally a frame structure, twelve feet above the water, about twenty rods long. Dr. Franklin Blackmer was the first to propose the Lake boulevard, which was completed about Fountain lake in 1880.

**An Interesting Tradition.** In telling the story of Albert Lea township, it is interesting to note that it is a generally accepted fact among Norwegian historians, that a party of Norwegians made plans for settling near or on the present site of the city of Albert Lea, early in 1855. The story is that Klemet Stabeks and a party of Norwegians, came through this county from a settlement on the Rock river, in Illinois, very early in 1855. They saw the beautiful prairie upon which the city of Albert Lea is now situated, and decided to locate here later. Then they continued on a trip to the northward to visit friends who had settled elsewhere, and also to see if any better site than that of Albert Lea presented itself. In the fall they started back to their home in Illinois, determined to bring their families to Albert Lea and locate. But they found here George S. Ruble and his men, and so gave up the projected settlement. One of this party, Halvor K. Wastad, by name, brought his family from Illinois the following year, and settled near Lyle, where he became a prominent and respected citizen.

### ALDEN TOWNSHIP.

Alden township lies in the western tier of Freeborn county's towns, and is separated from Iowa by one town. Its contiguous surroundings are, Carlston on the north; Pickerel Lake on the east; Mansfield on the south, and Faribault county on the west. It is constituted as originally surveyed by the United States



officers, of thirty-six square miles, and contains 23,040 acres, of which the greater portion is under a high state of cultivation. The soil throughout the entire township is a rich dark loam, of from three to four feet deep, which is underlaid with a subsoil of clay. Alden village is located in the northeastern part of the township.

**Early Settlement.** The early development of this sub-division of Freeborn county commenced a little later than the average of towns in this part of Minnesota. As to who the first settlers were, there are different opinions, and the means with which to prove any of the statements are limited. A short sketch, purporting to be the history of the township, was published in 1877, which is as follows: John Houck entered this town in the spring of 1858, and is supposed to have been the first settler. He also erected the first house in the summer of that year. John Tirrel was the first merchant and commenced business in the winter of 1869-70. Mr. Miller, a blacksmith, was the first mechanic; M. W. Green the first lawyer, and a Mr. Barber the first doctor. The first school was taught in the Russell district, but when, or by whom, I have been unable to ascertain. The first religious service is said to have been held at the house of William Humes, but authorities differ regarding the officiating clergyman; the conflict laying between Rev. D. P. Curtis and Rev. A. P. Wolcott. The first schoolhouse was erected in 1867, and in the same year the Free Will Baptists effected the first church organization. A. G. Hall served as chairman of the first board of supervisors and E. P. Clark acted as clerk."

It is fairly certain that the first farm settled upon in the town was in section 2, by Walter Scott Russell, in the spring of 1858. He was a young man who came from Wisconsin with a yoke of oxen, and the same summer broke three acres of land, and in a dug-out in the side of a hill he took up his abode. In a short time he returned to Wisconsin for his father and family, whom he had left there, and brought them back with him. He remained but a short time, then sold his claim and removed to parts unknown. John Houck made his appearance in the summer of the same year, and took a farm in the northern part of the township, in section 1, where, it is said, he erected the first house and opened a farm. He remained a few years and then removed. A. G. Hall later purchased the farm.

In October, 1860, the next pioneer to make a claim was James Rundel, who located in section 2, and died not long after his arrival. Elisha Davis came by team from Wisconsin, and arrived here in 1862, building a sod house on the claim which he selected in section 5. He remained here until the year 1877, when he sold out and went to Valley county, Nebraska. Joseph W. Har-



rington, a native of Illinois, came to Alden in 1863, and in the spring of that year took a homestead in section 12, where he remained until 1873, when he removed to the village and remained there until the time of his death, which occurred in 1875. He was among the prominent men of this locality. Moses Cheesebrough, late of Wisconsin, made his appearance in this township in the fall of 1864. He came with teams, driving several head of stock, and went to the big woods, thirty miles away, to get lumber with which to erect a frame dwelling. He remained on the homestead, which he took in section 7, for a number of years, but finally went to Nebraska. William B. Humes came to Minnesota in 1864, locating first in Pleasant Grove, where he remained for five years; then came to Alden township and homesteaded a place in section 1. He was the first justice of the peace elected in the township. James Whitehead was another arrival in 1864, coming from Wisconsin with a yoke of oxen and locating in section 3, where, in the spring of that year he erected a sod habitation. He remained until 1866, when he left the county. George W. Sanders also came in the spring of 1864, from Wisconsin, with a team of horses, and settling in section 9, erected a house. He remained here for about seventeen years, after which he removed to other fields. A. G. Hall arrived in 1865, in the spring, coming from McGregor, Iowa, to Alden, with horse teams, the trip taking twenty-four days. Shortly after his arrival he bought out the claim of John Houck, in section 1, where he remained until the village of Alden was projected, and then went to that place and erected the first building there. He was the first chairman of supervisors of the town, and became a prominent man in public affairs. In 1865 the Rev. O. P. Hull made his arrival from Wisconsin and secured a home in sections 8 and 17, where he erected a house and barn and remained a number of years, then returned to Wisconsin, where he lived until death called him. Russell Maxson, a native of New York, who had for a time been stopping in Wisconsin, came in about 1863, and secured a claim, which he held for several years, when he left.

**Official Record.** The records show that the first town meeting was held at the house of E. P. Clark, in section 4, April 3, 1866. The meeting came to order by the selection of A. G. Hall, chairman, and proceeded to business. It was then resolved, by unanimous consent, that \$100 be raised by tax to defray town expenses for the ensuing year. It was also resolved that the sum of \$30 be appropriated for the purpose of building a pound, and George W. Sanders was elected poundmaster. Balloting for town officers came next in the program, and the following officers were declared elected: Supervisors, Albert G. Hall, chairman; Nathan



L. Bassett, and Washington Sanders; clerk, Edwin P. Clark; assessor, Russell Maxson; treasurer, Charles H. Clark; justices of the peace, Elisha R. Davis and William B. Humes; constables, Ebenezer Brown and Henry S. Davis. The number of votes cast was twenty-two.

### **BANCROFT TOWNSHIP.**

Bancroft township is one of the center subdivisions of Freeborn county, being separated by one tier from the north, and an equal distance from east and west county lines. Its contiguous neighbors are Bath township on the north, Riceland on the east, Albert Lea on the south, and Manchester on the west, embracing the territory of town 103, range 21, containing thirty-six sections, or 23,040 acres, of which there are very few unsuitable for agricultural purposes, and the greater part is already under a high state of cultivation. The township has no lakes and no streams of importance. Bancroft creek is the principal one; rising in the northwestern part of the town, it takes a southerly course and finally enters Fountain lake. A small body of water, known as Itasca lake, covers a few acres of land in the southwestern portion of section 31. The general makeup of the locality would be called prairie and oak openings. The early settlers say that originally at least three-fourths of the area of the town was covered with a growth of burr and jack oak and other timber of the smaller varieties, interspersed with natural meadows and prairie. The greater part of the former growth of timber has been removed, and the rich country transformed into beautiful and productive farms. There are, however, a number of groves left which mark the remains of former miniature forests. A strip of valuable prairie, known as the Paradise or Itasca prairie, enters the town in the southwestern corner and extends northeasterly almost across the entire town, gradually disappearing towards Clark's grove. The locality known as Oak Hill is the most elevated tract of land in the township, taking its name from the variety of timber with which it was formerly covered. It makes itself visible on the surface in the northwestern extremity of the town, and extends easterly across the entire township, embracing the northern tier of sections. The soil on the prairie is mostly a rich dark loam underlain with a rich sub-soil of clay; while in the timber, or oak opening, it is of a lighter nature, with a marked tendency to clay and a sub-soil of sand and gravel.

Bancroft township has a Norwegian Lutheran Church and cemetery in the central part of section 20, and another Norwegian Lutheran Church and cemetery in the northern part of section 25. Itasca and Bancroft villages, now extinct, were located in this township, as is the county alms house and poor farm at



the present time. A feature of the horticultural development of the county is the Wedge nurseries in this township.

**Early Settlement.** The Colby family, the members of which arrived in Freeborn county in 1855 and 1856, were interested in the village of Itasca, in Bancroft township, but their home was in section 6, Albert Lea township.

The township of Bancroft was settled by Norwegians at a very early day, a few arriving in 1855, and more in 1856. When Vegger Gulbrandson, who has thoroughly investigated the early Norwegian settlements, arrived in Hayward, in 1856, there was already a large colony in Bancroft, among whom may be mentioned Christopher Mikkelson and wife, Lars Mikkelson and wife, Andrew Olson, Guttorm Botolfson and wife, Endre Botolfson, John Hermanson and wife, Daniel Peterson, Peter Clausen, Charles Peterson and Charles Olson, as well as several others. Several of these, while belonging to the Bancroft colony, lived over the line in Albert Lea township.

In 1856, Benjamin Frost and a large family settled in section 19, Bancroft township, and Chas. B. Matthews located just over the line from Albert Lea. In the meantime the northern part of the town began to receive the attention of the early comers; but claims were getting scarce, and in the same ratio that they were scarce, so they became valuable. The settlement north of the center of the town was more universally known as the "Oak Hill" neighborhood. A. C. Hall, a native of Maine, was the first to make his appearance, and he selected his domain in sections 5 and 8, in the middle of September, 1856, where he put up a shanty and made some improvements; but was not really an actual settler, as he soon sold out and removed to Iowa. Andrew Barlow was the next to arrive, making his appearance in September. He walked from McGregor, Iowa, and took a claim on Pickerel Lake. While he was in Albert Lea after supplies his claim was jumped and he came to Bancroft. In the winter he went back to Iowa, but this claim also was jumped, and when he finally returned with his family, in the spring of 1857, he purchased the farm back for \$20. H. R. Loomis, from Erie county, Pennsylvania, came by stage from Dubuque to near Merry's Ford, on the Cedar river, Iowa, and from there he walked to Bancroft, arriving and selecting his place on the first day of November, 1856. He erected a small shanty and made some improvements and bought a yoke of oxen. December 26 he started with his oxen to Delaware county, Iowa, and remained there until February, 1857, when he returned, bringing with him his sister, Louisa Loomis, and Oscar and Fannie Ward. The last two named were aged twenty and fifteen years, respectively. The entire party came in a sleigh, camping out on the way, finally



arriving at Benjamin Frost's house, in the southeastern part of town, where the manager of the party, Mr. Loomis, left them and proceeded to his selected home in section 8, where he made a fire and prepared to entertain his guests. The balance of the party, whom he had left at Frost's, followed on foot, on the top of the snow, there being a heavy crust. They arrived in safety, and William Oscar Ward selected a farm for his father, a most prominent and popular man. Early in the fall of 1857, Jeremiah Ward, a native of New York, father of Oscar and Fannie, arrived and located upon the place selected for him, and lived upon it until 1879, when he passed away. About this time Ole Hanson came to the township. Early in the spring of 1857, Albert Loomis, from Erie county, Pennsylvania, came to the home of H. R. Loomis and immediately took a claim adjoining in section 9, where he made his home for about ten years, when he went back to Pennsylvania. About a week later, Cyrus Prescott, a native of Maine, who had made his home from childhood in Ohio, made his appearance in the town, coming by way of Hastings; and making a claim in section 5, he took up his abode with H. R. Loomis' people while he improved his property. Later in the season Cyrus' father, Daniel, joined his son, and made him a home in section 4. In June, 1857, the next pioneer drifted in, in the person of William H. Long, a native of Newark, N. J., who located on a farm in sections 5 and 8. In the spring of 1882 he removed to the city of Albert Lea. Nicholas J. Sandburg also came in 1857, as well as Ole I. Ellingson, Andrew J. Luther and Ole O. Styve.

In the spring of 1858, Charles Dills, a native of the Empire state, came and purchased a place in section 9, of Charles E. Teneycke, who had previously secured it. Ere this time nearly two-thirds of the land in this locality was taken up by actual settlers, and already a stride in the advance of civilization was perceptible. Among those who had arrived a few more will be chronicled. George H. Prescott, who located in section 4; G. Thompson, who took land in section 8; Andrew Knudson took land in section 9. Messrs. Wells and Clark took land, but soon left.

Jeremiah Ward was another pioneer. He was a carpenter and stone mason by trade. Ole Midthun also came in 1858. Others who were associated with the early history of the township were: Henry N. Ostrander, who came in 1859; E. K. Pickett and Erick Johnsrud, in 1860; H. P. Jensen, in 1864; Peter Finton, in 1875; A. N. Rice, in 1877; Tom Oleson, in 1879; Eugene Chamberlain and Rev. Johan T. Ylvisaker, in 1881.

**Early Events.** The first marriage within the boundaries of Bancroft took place the spring of 1858, the contracting parties



being John Raiser and Margaret Baker. The event took place in the "old-time" village of Bancroft, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. S. G. Lowry, a Presbyterian minister. The first death of a matured person was that of Margaret Horning, in April, 1859. Her remains were deposited in the graveyard at Albert Lea. Martin Mikkelsen was the first white child born in the township.

**Official Record.** The first meeting in the township for the purpose of effecting the organization of Bancroft, was held May 11, 1858, at the house of Ole Olson. The meeting came to order by the appointment of N. H. Ellickson, chairman; W. N. Oliver, moderator, and J. M. Clark, clerk. E. D. Porter and Gardner Frost were elected overseers of roads, and a resolution was then adopted declaring that all cattle, mules, and horses, except stallions over two years of age, could run at large. The election of officers was next taken up, and the following gentlemen for the various positions of trust were declared elected: Supervisors, D. Blakely, chairman; J. M. Clark, and C. C. Colby; clerk, G. M. Frost; assessor, Daniel Prescott; treasurer, Ole Ellingson; overseer of poor, Henry Loomis; justices of the peace, S. Hanson and S. S. Watson; constables, H. Bedells and R. G. Franklin. For several years the annual meetings were held at the store in Bancroft.

**Itasca Cemetery.** This historic burial ground is located in the southwestern part of section 31, on land originally owned by A. M. Burnham. In 1861, Samuel Henderson, a resident of Pickarel Lake, died, and was the first person buried here. Others' remains were also deposited here, and about the year 1870 the grounds were regularly arranged, platted, and set aside for the purpose. This location was selected by Mrs. Burnham. She also selected the last resting place that her remains now occupy. The cemetery, which is now practically abandoned, was surveyed in 1873, by H. C. Lacy, whose burial there, at his own request, some ten years ago, was the last interment in the grounds. The original trustees of the cemetery were: A. M. Johnson, A. M. Burnham, Isaac Botsford, and Hanibal Bickford.

### BATH TOWNSHIP

Bath is the center of the northern tier of towns in Freeborn county. Its contiguous surroundings are as follows: Waseca county on the north; Geneva township on the east; Bancroft township on the south; and Hartland township on the west. It contains thirty-six sections or square miles, comprising the territory of town 104, range 21. In early days the most of the township was covered with a growth of burr oak. This was interspersed with meadow or small patches of prairie land. There is a prairie



of about 2,560 acres, located in the southwestern part of the township. The timber has been removed to a great extent, and the rich land been converted into valuable farms. The surface is rolling, and in places the undulation is so abrupt as to be called ridges, which are not subject to cultivation. The soil is a dark sandy loam, underlain with a subsoil of clay. The town is not so well watered as its neighbors, has no stream, and only one lake wholly within its borders. An arm of Geneva lake extends from the town bearing its name into section 25 of Bath, and covers a few acres of land. Lake George is the only body of water wholly within the boundaries, lying in the southern part of section 22. It was named in honor of George Skinner, Jr.

Bath township has two villages, Clark's Grove and Bath. A Catholic church and cemetery are located in the western part of section 8. The Advent church is in the eastern part of section 17. The Norwegian Lutheran church and cemetery are in the southwestern part of section 21. The Danish Baptist church and cemetery are east of Clark's Grove.

**Early Settlement.** The earliest infringement by settlers, upon the territory of this town, commenced in the spring of 1856. The first parties to arrive and secure permanent homes were the Brooks brothers. The party consisted of Edward D., Dwight E., and Henry L. Brooks, with their sister Augusta, and mother. They were originally from Massachusetts, coming by way of Pennsylvania, and arriving in the spring of 1856. They settled in and about section 24, where the brothers joined interests and erected a log cabin 14x26 feet. Edward took a claim just over the line into Geneva township, and remained until 1866, when he went to Faribault county. Dwight E. remained until 1868, when he followed his brother, and they were subsequently joined by the other brother, Henry L. In May of the following year, 1857, John Kelly, a native of Ireland, who had stopped for a time in Iowa, came with his family, in an ox cart, and settled in section 11 or 14. Soon after his arrival he erected a 14x18 foot log house, which he covered with sod and slabs. Soon afterward John Harty and Martin Sheehan, of the same nationality, came and secured places. Harty became satisfied with a farm in section 4, where he remained until the time of his death, which occurred in the latter part of the sixties. Sheehan secured a farm in the northeastern part of the town, where he remained until he died in 1857. E. D. Porter came this year and settled near Clark's Grove.

In the summer of 1857, a party of Norwegians, consisting of Hans Peterson, Ingebret Erickson, and Nels Nelson, came with teams, bringing their families, and settled upon claims. Erickson left in 1880 for the Red River country; Nelson died during the



war, in defense of his country. About the same time Richard Fitzgerald, a native of Ireland, came and first located at St. Nicholas, where he put in a crop; but soon after made his way to Bath. Fred W. Calkins came in June, 1857 and died in 1863.

George W. Skinner left Corning, New York, August 24, 1858, and arrived in Bath township September 7, having spent the preceding night in Geneva, where he found quite an important little settlement. On the tenth of the same month he selected the southeastern quarter of section 22 for his future home. Shortly after Mr. Skinner's arrival, John and George Blessing, natives of Germany, made their appearance and selected claims in section 23, where they remained for several years. Joseph Blessing came with his family and located in section 35, remaining four or five years. Horace Green came about the same time from Wisconsin, and located in section 14. Jacob Bower, a German, came in the fall of 1858 and planted his stakes in section 27; but his stay was abruptly terminated by the government officers, as he was discovered selling whiskey to the Indians, and he soon left. Mons Grinager came in 1859 and settled. He later became register of the United States land office at Worthington, Minnesota. Ellend Erickson, later a prominent citizen, came in 1859. James M. Drake, a native of Massachusetts, came in 1856, and located in Geneva; but later moved his residence over the line into Bath. Among others who were connected with the early history of this township are: David A. Pierce, who came in 1864; Niels P. Peterson, who came in 1867, and Mitchell Slater, who came in the early seventies. The settlement about Clark's Grove has already been described.

**Early Events.** The first birth in the township took place June 1, 1859, being that of John Schad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Schad. The second birth was that of a child to Mr. and Mrs. George W. Skinner, and occurred two weeks later than the above.

A triple marriage occurred in Bath, December 22, 1864, at the residence of the Brooks brothers, the ceremony being performed by George W. Skinner. The parties interested were as follows: Edward D. Brooks to Mary Bliss; Dwight E. Brooks to Mrs. Savannah Calkins, widow of Edward Calkins; Lieut. Loren Meeker to Augusta T. Brooks.

The first death occurred late in November, 1858, and carried away Edward Calkins, son of F. W. Calkins, aged twenty-one years.

**War Record.** December 6, 1864, the sum of \$1,000 was voted for the purpose of securing volunteers to fill the quota assigned the town, and to prevent the necessity of a draft. Of this amount \$600 was used. The names of the participants in the



war from Bath are as follows, fourteen in all: F. Drake, Dwight E. Brooks, Edward D. Brooks, O. Iverson, Ingebret Erickson, P. Jacobson, Michael Sheehan, E. Johnson, John Peterson, C. Johnson, Mons Grinager, Nels Nelsons, Tim Kelly, and Peter Nason. Of these, Nels Nelson, Ole Iverson and P. Jacobson never returned, finding the graves of martyrs in southern soil.

**Official Record.** When the county of Freeborn came into existence the present area of the township of Bath was merged into territory taken from Geneva and Hartland, and was known as Porter.

Porter township was organized for local government at a meeting held April 15, 1859, at the residence of Frederick W. Calkins. The meeting came to order and James M. Drake was chosen chairman; F. W. Calkins, moderator, and Harris Green, clerk. The next matter taken up was that of the town name, and someone suggested "Bath," after the name of the county seat of Steuben county, Ohio, and the name was adopted. It was next voted that the lake near the center of the township should be known as "Lake George," in honor of the oldest son of G. W. Skinner. The matter of election next came up and the judges of election were appointed as follows: George W. Skinner, Andrew Black and B. Renweiler. The judges were duly sworn before F. W. Calkins, and the election of officers for the ensuing year began, resulting as follows: Supervisors, Harris Green, chairman, Joseph Blessing and E. Erickson; clerk, Horace Green; assessor, Joseph Loreman; collector, E. Erickson; justices of the peace, George W. Skinner and Horace Green; constable, Jack Bower. The elections were held in early days at the residence of John Munsen, and as time went by they were held at various places as the annual meeting directed.

### CARLSTON TOWNSHIP.

This is a township lying in the western tier of Freeborn county towns, and containing an area of thirty-six sections or square miles; making 23,040 acres. Its immediate surroundings are Freeborn on the north, Manchester on the east, Alden on the south, and the county of Faribault on the west. As will, of course, be imagined, this is a prairie township. The town is watered by a lake and several small streams which bisect the prairie. Freeborn lake, taking its name after the same gentleman in whose honor the county received its name, is one of the largest and most beautiful bodies of water in the county, and lies mostly within the limits of this town, only extending into the town north a few rods. It is situated in the northeastern part and covers about 2,240 to 2,400 acres, or three and a half sections, being about three miles long and, to the utmost, about a mile and a half wide,

while its depth will not exceed twelve feet. The water of the lake is soft and of rather a muddy hue. Originally it abounded with fish of all local species, but in the winter of 1868-69, which was very severe, the lake water froze very deep and remained a solid mass of ice for six months. The carp has also proved a deadly enemy to the fish. The shores are covered with a small growth of timber, mostly burr oak, this constituting the timber land of the town, the balance being prairie of a rolling nature. There are no villages in the town, except to the extent to which the village of Alden extends from the town bearing the same name into section 33 of this town.

A part of Alden village extends into this township. There are Lutheran churches in sections 22 and 34. The cemetery is in section 34.

**Early Settlement.** The first settler in the township was Robert Miller, who came in the spring of 1855, and settled on a claim in section 15, on the banks of Freeborn lake, where he erected the first house and did the first breaking. He did not remain long, as he was discovered selling liquor to the Indians. Theodore L. Carlston was the second settler and for him the town was named. He erected a house in the same spring that he arrived, where he lived until the time of his death in 1858. The next to arrive was Elias Stanton, who also located on the shore of Freeborn lake, in section 14. He likewise put up a log house. In 1857, during the winter, he was caught in one of the noted Minnesota snowstorms and frozen so badly that after several amputations he died. When he arrived in this county he was accompanied by a man named Huyck, who located in section 11 for a number of years.

Thomas Ford arrived in 1856 and was another of the first settlers in the town. He located in section 15 and remained until 1859, when he left. Joseph Jones also arrived at an early day. In 1856 John L. Melander, also known as John L. Melder, settled in the northern part of the township and became one of the most prominent pioneers of the county.

In 1857 Charles J. Grandy put in his appearance.

In the spring of 1858 L. T. Walker, a native of Vermont, came to the township and opened a valuable farm. He later moved to the village of Alden. Asa Walker, one of Freeborn county's distinguished citizens, arrived in 1859.

Henry Collins came in 1859 and located in section 27, where he remained, cultivating and improving the farm for about eleven years, when he removed to the village of Alden and engaged in the pursuit of his profession, that of law. David T. Colvin and family came in the spring of 1859 from Pickerel Lake, where he settled in 1858. and settled upon 160 acres in this town. He



brought with him horses, wagon and several head of cows, and purchased a corn crib in which he and his family made their home for some time.

Charles Sweet was born in Allegany county, New York, in 1828, and in 1863 came to Minnesota, to the township of Carlston, locating in section 32. Nathan Jackman and William Clark were also early settlers.

**Early Events.** The following is a sketch of the early matters in this town, published several years ago by the Old Settlers' Association, in the Albert Lea papers: "Carlston was first settled in 1855 by Robert Miller. Miller built of logs the first house, in 1855, and opened the first farm in the same year. John L. Melder (Melander), a blacksmith, was the first mechanic. H. B. Collins opened the practice of law in 1860. The first school was taught by Martha Taylor in 1860, and the first schoolhouse was built by District 61, in the fall of the same year. The first religious service was held by Rev. Mr. Marsh, United Brethren minister, at a schoolhouse, in 1861. The Seventh Day Baptists effected the first church organization, in November, 1863. The first parties married were David Horning and Mary Jane Elliott, December 24, 1861. In 1856 the first child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Melander. The first death was that of Elias Stanton, in the spring of 1858."

Theodore Carlston, from whom this township is named, is said by some to have spelled his name without the "t," and there are many early settlers who insist that this was the proper rendering of the name. The township name has always been spelled with a "t," but in the records the man's name is variously spelled, even appearing in some places as L. T. instead of Theodore L.

**Cemeteries.** **Alden Union Association Cemetery.** This burial ground is located near the central part of section 34. The association was organized January 17, 1877, with the following as their trustees: John A. Hazle, A. T. Briggs, J. E. N. Backus, W. A. Clark and L. M. Hall. The first burial here was of the remains of Justin, a son of Henry Ernst, who died June 27, 1871. The management of this cemetery is now vested in the village council of Alden.

### **FREEBORN TOWNSHIP.**

This township has a name identical with that of the county. Its immediate surroundings are Waseca county on the north, Faribault county on the west, Carlston county on the south, and Hartland on the east. It is constituted, as are all the townships in this county, of a full congressional township, containing 23,040 acres, known in legal parlance as township 104, range 23. Freeborn is principally a prairie town, not so much inclined to be rolling as most of the towns, but level and in places marshy. The



lakes are surrounded by a small growth of the shrubby varieties of timber. The soil is a dark and sandy loam, with a sub-soil of clay and gravel, and almost the entire area is well adapted to agricultural purposes, and has a large cultivated acreage, yielding good crops of the cereals and other products of the latitude, and in the low lands hay is a most valuable crop. The township is well watered by numerous lakes and streams, which diversify the scenery and help make the land valuable for agricultural purposes. First in order should be mentioned the lake bearing the name of Freeborn, which extends from Carlston township, in which a greater part of the lake lies, northward, and covers a few acres of land in section 35, just south of the village of Freeborn. Lake George lies about one mile to the north, in sections 26 and 27. Still further north, in sections 11 and 14, is located another small body of water, known as Spicer lake. Trenton lake covers quite an area in sections 2 and 3, and extends northward into Waseca county. Another body of water, known as Prairie lake, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the town. Two rivers, known as the Big and Little Cobb rivers, traverse the town from the southeast to the northwest, almost parallel, within about two miles of each other, and enter Faribault county.

Freeborn township has a flourishing village of the same name and a little farming community known as Trenton. There are cemeteries in sections 35 and 11.

**Cemeteries.** When Mrs. E. S. Dunn died in 1858 a place was selected for her burial. Afterward the site was donated for cemetery purposes by L. G. Pierce. The first plat was filed for record May 7, 1866. It was replatted in 1899, being surveyed by H. W. Fisk. The trustees at that time were George P. Lattin, Wilbur Fisk and O. S. Gilmore. The present trustees are: President, I. H. Seath; secretary, O. S. Gilmore; treasurer, F. M. Snyder; actuary, G. P. Lattin. There is also a cemetery located in the northern part of the town, in section 11, which was set apart for burial purposes in 1862. The first person buried here was Norman Olin.

**Early Settlement.** In the early days it was generally agreed that the first settlers in this township were T. K. Page and William Montgomery, who came from Dodge county, Wisconsin, and in July, 1856, located in section 26 and commenced improvements, the former erecting the first house, of logs. They remained several years, when they returned to their former homes. The first permanent settlers came June 13, 1856, and were H. T. Simms, who located on a tract of land in section 10; Jeremiah Davis, and son, D. C., who located in section 2, and John W. Ayars, who settled in the northern part of the township on sections 3 and 4. Another member of the party was a Mr. Heritage, who remained in the



township but a short time and then returned to Wisconsin. This party of pioneers came from Wisconsin in covered wagons, drawn by ox teams, and for weeks after their arrival here they camped in their wagons while rude log houses were being erected. The locality in which these people located is still known as Seventh Day Adventists' Grove. About the same time came E. S. Dunn, long a justice of the peace, who settled in the northern part of the township. Mr. Dunn remained upon this farm until 1857, when he removed to the southern part of the town, and in June took 320 acres of land in sections 34 and 35, under the provisions of the law allowing it for townsite purposes. He lived here until 1881, when he removed to Missouri. September 10, in 1856, came Charles Giddings, Parker Page and L. T. Scott, from Dodge county, Wisconsin, who all settled upon sections 35 and 26. Mr. Giddings remained about six years, when he removed to Fairbault, and from there to Blooming Prairie, Steele county. Mr. Page remained about eight years, when he went to Nebraska. Mr. Scott now lives in the village and is one of the most successful as well as most prominent men. This party came with ox teams, bringing also a few cows. Mr. Scott brought with him his wife, as did Parker Page. Theodore Page had a wife and boy with him, while Mr. Giddings also brought his wife and a small child. Among the pioneers of Freeborn township and vicinity may be mentioned: Stephen Fuller, Jason Goward, John G. Harrison, Henry Olin, Thomas, John B., Alexander and William Purdie, John A. Scroen, John Bostwick, Ezra Stearns, George Snyder, Nathan McQuinney, F. M. Snyder, Nathan McQuivey, W. H. Miller, D. A. Scoville, Charles Scoville, Levi W. Gilmore (in Carlston), Henry Simmons, Geo. M. Chase, E. D. Rodgers, Andrew Aughenbaugh, John Penny, Levi Stearns, C. H. Derby, Morris Stillman, John G. Harrison, George Seath, Alfred Crandall, Russell D. Burdick, James Hanson, Francis Drake, Orville S. Gilmore, Ole Johnson, N. P. Stillman.

**Historical Sketch.** This sketch of the township, prepared by D. G. Parker, president of the Old Settlers' Association, was read by him at their annual reunion in the spring of 1877. "Freeborn was settled by T. K. Page and William Montgomery in July, 1856. The former built a house of logs and opened a farm. The same season, being in advance of any other, Clark and West opened a small store in the winter of 1857-58 in the village, but left in the following spring. E. D. Rogers, a blacksmith, was the first mechanic. J. R. Giddings was the first lawyer, and located in 1860. In 1861 J. K. Moore offered his services as the first doctor. The first school was taught at the village in E. S. Dunn's log house by Emeline Allen, in the summer of 1857. The first schoolhouse was built by district No. 13, in the fall of 1858. In 1857 L. T. Scott



opened the ballroom of his hotel to Rev. Isaac Ling for the first religious service. In 1859 the Methodists organized a class, and in 1867 the Baptists built the first house of worship. The first title to land, according to the land office abstracts, was acquired by Nelson Everest, on section 22, as early as January 9, 1855, but as this was eighteen months before there was any settlement, it is believed to be an error of record. John Wood and Emeline Allen were the first parties married and the ceremony was performed by E. S. Dunn, in 1858. The first child born was George F. Scott, February 14, 1857. The first death was that of Emily Dunn, in the fall of 1858. L. T. Scott opened the first hotel and was the first postmaster, the latter in the winter of 1857-58. C. D. Giddings, J. W. Ayars and E. D. Rogers constituted the first board of supervisors, and were elected May 11, 1858. John Wood was clerk. The first board of school officers were J. S. Rickard, L. T. Scott and C. D. Giddings."

**Organization.** The township of Freeborn came into existence as an official subdivision of the county at a meeting held for the purpose of organization at the house of E. S. Dunn, May 11, 1858. The meeting came to order and Charles D. Giddings was chosen moderator and John Wood clerk. After the usual preliminaries the polls were declared open for the election of officers for the ensuing year, which election resulted as follows: Supervisors, Charles D. Giddings, chairman, E. D. Rogers and John W. Ayars; clerk, John Wood; assessor, Thomas W. Purdie; collector, John B. Purdie; overseer of the poor, Joseph S. Rickard; constables, John B. Purdie and S. B. McGuire; justices of the peace, Edward Dunn and Henry Olin. In 1865, during the rebellion, a special town meeting was held, at which the sum of \$1,800 was voted to pay men who should volunteer to enlist in the service and fill the quota assigned the town, the amount to be issued in bonds as directed by a committee for the purpose.

**Early Events.** It is claimed that the first birth in the township occurred February 12, 1857, being that of a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Scott. The first marriage took place in August, 1858, and united the destinies of John Wood and Emily Allen. The first death was that of Mrs. E. S. Dunn. Another early death was that of George C. Snyder.

### **FREEMAN TOWNSHIP.**

Freeman township is one of the southern tier towns of Freeborn county, lying contiguous to Iowa on the south, and the townships of Albert Lea, Shell Rock and Nunda, respectively, on the north, east and west. It is a full congressional township, the greater part of which is under an admirable state of cultivation.



The surface of the township is considerably broken and inclined in places to be very hilly, although there are no bluffs and but few places so abrupt as to be detrimental to agriculture. The soil is variable, but in the greater portion of the town is of a rich dark loam, although not unfrequently a locality is passed where the sand and clay are visible. The water courses of this town are all small, there being only one which is named upon the map. This is Goose creek, which rises west of the boundary and enters by way of section 18, then taking a southeasterly course passes through Grass lake and leaves for Iowa. Another small stream rises in the northern part and flows southeasterly across the northeast corner of the town. Several small streams flow into Grass lake, but have no names, and in the low country are liable to change their courses. Grass lake is a body of water located in the corners of the four southeastern sections in the township.

Freeman township has a small hamlet called Knatvold. There is a cemetery in the central part of section 4. Lutheran churches and cemeteries are situated in the northwestern part of section 16 and in the northeastern part of section 21.

**Early Settlement.** There has always been considerable question as to the actual first settlers of Freeman township. It is believed that the first settlers were John Oldinghouse (variously spelled), Oliver Diamond and Jacob Hostetter, who are said to have arrived in 1855, although the latter did not secure title to land until 1856 and the two former not until 1857. Oldinghouse was a native of Germany, and after spending a time in Wisconsin he came to Freeman township in the summer of 1855 with his family and settled on section 12, where he dug a hole in the ground and covering it with poles and hay, spent the winter here. The following year he removed to section 24. Oldinghouse erected a shanty upon this new farm and made improvements, remaining there about two years, after which he with his family removed to Kansas, where he died soon after. Oliver Diamond came in the fall. He was a native of Vermont and located in the same section with Oldinghouse (24), where, among other improvements, he erected a log house, 16x22 feet. Diamond did not remain long and sold to Charles Grimm. About the same time, in 1855, Jacob Hostetter, a Pennsylvania German, who came direct from Ohio by way of Wisconsin, settled with his wife, four daughters and two boys upon section 1. He erected a log house and commenced improvements, which he continued for fifteen or sixteen years, and then sold.

The spring following the arrival of Hostetter, in March, 1856, Christian Blas, a German, arrived, and settled upon the claim he secured in section 22, where he remained for a couple of years, when he returned to Illinois. William Edwards, from England



originally, but late from Beaver Dam, Wis., arrived on foot in Freeman township September 20, 1856, and took a claim in section 24, where he commenced improvements, boarding in the meantime with Oliver Diamond. His claim was jumped shortly afterwards and he took a place in section 22, but finally, in 1857, sold that and took a place in section 3. Just before Christmas, in 1856, Charles Bessinger and Phillip Herman, from Canada, made their appearance and selected homes. Chas. Bessinger selected his domain in section 9 and lived there several years, when he sold to his brother, Morris Bessinger. Phillip Herman planted his stakes upon a fine tract of land in section 13. The year 1856 also marks the arrival of the Freemans, after whom the town is named. John Freeman was born in England, in 1805, and after coming to America secured an entire section in Freeman township under the pre-emption laws for himself and his three sons, William, Robert and Mark. After living for a time in a tent on his claim in section 15, he erected a log house, and here lived for many years. Others who came in 1856 were Joseph Lang, Lars Nelson, John Nelson, Parton Greene, Ruben Wilsey, Joseph E. Marvin, Henry Thurston and William Edwards. Some of these had land in Shell Rock. Other prominent early settlers were Wiffing Wadsworth (who located in Albert Lea township in 1856), Charles Grimm, George Hyatt, B. H. Carter, Kaleb Hull, Louis B. Proebsting, Philip Herman and Lemuel Scoville. William Pickle came in 1859 but later moved to Nunda.

**Early Events.** Early births in the township were in the Diamond and Oldinghouse families. In 1858 Wiffing Wadsworth married Sarah Freeman. The infant son of Wiffing Wadsworth died at the age of nine months. Mrs. Wadsworth died in 1860. Louis B. Proebsting and Libbie Banning were married in 1857. In 1859 Sarah White taught school in the residence of Joseph Shaw. Joseph Lang was the first carpenter and mechanic.

**Official Records.** This town effected an organization as a local government at a meeting held April 2, 1861, at the house now occupied by William Freeman, by the election of the following officers: Supervisors, B. H. Carter, chairman, William H. Moore and Lars Nelson; clerk, W. Wadsworth; treasurer, Henry Eaton; assessor, William Eaton; school superintendent, J. E. Marvin. After this meetings were held for four years in the same house, and then the schoolhouses were brought into requisition.

### GENEVA TOWNSHIP.

This is on the northern tier of townships in the county, the second from Mower county on the east, Newry lying between. Steele county is on the north, Bath on the west, and Riceland on the south. Like all the other towns in the county, the integrity of the



original government survey has been maintained. Most of the sections from 25 to 36 were originally slough land, and covered by college and railroad scrip. The remainder is rolling prairie, with a black sandy loam, which on some of the ridges is mixed with clay and is very productive. Nearly all the timber in town, when first entered for settlement, was on sections 17 and 36. Geneva lake is the only one in town. It is in the western part and occupies parts of six sections. It has an irregular outline, with an area of perhaps three sections, and is three miles long and a little over a mile wide in its widest part.

Geneva village is in sections 7 and 8. St. Mary's church is in the southwest part of section 13. There is a cemetery in section 8.

**Early Settlement.** 1855. Milton Morey is said to be the first settler in town. He took a claim in 1855, built a cabin and did some breaking that fall. About Christmas his dwelling was burned, and as he could not put up another, he took his family in an ox team and spent the winter in Austin, returning in the spring and putting in some crops. After a time he went to Dakota and settled near Yankton.

1856. Elmer Eggleston was the next settler. He was a native of Ohio but had come from Galena in 1856 and soon found Mr. Morey, who later assisted the young adventurer to stake out a farm in section 8, which he opened up and cultivated until 1863, when he sold out. In August of the same year Eliab Eggleston and his family joined the son. In May, Robert P. Farr, a native of Missouri, came and located in section 14. Along with him came Joseph W. Burdick, a native of New York, who selected his place in section 10, and there he established a home, in which he dwelt until his death, which occurred April 24, 1877. Henry King, who was born in Canada, took up his residence in section 23. E. C. Stacy secured a place in section 7. He was one of the first three county commissioners appointed by the governor of the territory. Isaac Lyon, from Illinois, took a claim in section 8, which he soon disposed of to Jones & Robson. He afterwards lived in Steele county, and later in Warren, Ill. Samuel Woodworth came here from the Badger State and planted his boundary stakes in section 26, and there he remained until 1866. Nathan Hunt got his real estate in sections 15 and 16, went into the army, and on his return located in Faribault county. Walter Drake, from the Nutmeg state, procured his slice of Minnesota territory in section 30. John Reed, from Kent county, England, located in section 22. In February, 1862, he enlisted in the Union army and went to Fort Snelling, but in one month was mustered out. Thomas Cashman, of Ireland, came from Iowa, and cast his lot on section 13. Alexander Schutt, a native of the province of Quebec, Canada, came here from Ontario, and his choice was in



sections 11 and 12. Burdette and Charles, sons of Eliab Eggleston, were early settlers, but both died young. John Hines was here a short time, but pushed on to Dakota. O. G. Goodnature, of Canada, arrived in June and transplanted himself in section 14. Patrick McDonald also came this year. Late this year two enterprising men from New York state, James F. Jones and James A. Robson, arrived, secured a beautiful spot and located a town. Hans Eustrom, a native of Sweden, came here from Boston and located in section 4.

A large settlement came in 1857, among whom may be mentioned the following: Bernhard Schad, an enterprising German from Red Wing, arrived and at once went into the blacksmith and wagon business. John Heath, Sr., took a claim in section 7, but afterwards removed to Albert Lea. Charles Henion, from New York state, came here from Wisconsin and secured a foothold in section 4.

Some of the arrivals of 1858 were: George Osborne, a native of Ohio, who spent a winter here and afterwards lived in Steele county. In about two years he returned to Geneva. He was in the army and afterwards for a time postmaster. He is now dead. Thomas Hines, of Vermont, settled in section 16. He removed to Faribault county in 1864 and lived there until 1872. Robert Hill, a native of Pennsylvania, pre-empted a place in section 10 and afterwards lived with his son-in-law, Robert P. Farr, until his death, which occurred in 1865.

Among other early settlers whose names have been identified with the township were: Michael Fenton, who came in 1859; Lucius Gibbs and John Walaski came in 1862; Harvey Partridge came in 1864; Harrison Davis, in 1866; Dr. Willis Twiford, in 1873; Charles Vinton, in 1875.

**Historical Sketch.** The following in regard to this town was published in 1877: "It was first settled by Milton Morey, in the fall of 1855, who immediately constructed a log house, which was burned down on the Christmas following. To him also belongs the honor of opening the first farm, which he did in the spring of 1856. E. C. Stacy, who settled in June, 1856, was the first lawyer, while his wife, who arrived in August following, was the first doctor. Robson and Jones were the first merchants and commenced the sale of goods in July, 1857. Schad and Drommerhausen, blacksmiths and wagon makers, were the first mechanics. In the same summer of 1857 a Mrs. Clark taught the first school in a log shanty at the village. The first schoolhouse was built by district No. 3, in 1858. In the summer of 1857 Rev. Isaac McReynolds held the first religious service. In 1858 the Catholics organized the first religious society, and built the first church in 1861. The postoffice was established in the winter of



1856-57, which was supplied by special service from Austin. E. C. Stacy was the first postmaster. The first child born was Ralph Freeborn Drake, July 30, 1856. William Robson and Atlanta Smith were the first parties married, John Reed performing the ceremony in the summer of 1859. The first death was that of Mrs. Welcome Bacon, which occurred in February, 1859. James A. Robson opened the first hotel in June, 1858, although Judge E. C. Stacy had thrown his house open to the public ever since his first settlement. The first board of officers was elected May 11, 1858, consisting of E. C. Stacy, W. S. Bacon and John Brennan; H. Eustrom, clerk.

**Early Events.** The first child born in Geneva township was Irwin Burdick, born September, 1856; the second was Anna Schad, born September, 1857, the first girl in Geneva; and the third child was Eli Goodnature, born in September, 1857. The next two were Henry Eustrom and Harvey Robson, both born in February, 1858, and the next was George Reed, born in April, 1858. Seymour E., son of Eliab and Esther Eggleston, died December 24, 1857. The wife of W. S. Bacon died in the winter of 1857-58. Burdette E., son of Eliab and Esther Eggleston, died November 28, 1857.

**Town Organization.** The first town meeting was May 11, 1858, when the new constitution went into effect. The supervisors were: E. C. Stacy, chairman, W. S. Bacon and John Brennan; clerk, Hans Eustrom. The earliest records are lost, so there are no particulars as to what was done, or of the names of the other officers.

**Early Mills.** In 1858 Deacon Brant started the manufacture of shingles on section 8. The establishment was a marvel in its way and displayed a genius that should have been handsomely rewarded, for it was the missing link between hand labor and machinery. The blocks were cut the proper length by a cross-cut saw and they were then boiled to soften them and then were slashed up into shingles by a knife attached to a lever. In the fall of 1856 Bacon & Eggleston put up a sawmill on section 36 and kept it vibrating until the summer of 1857, when it was transferred to section 17, where Bacon run it for two years, having, in 1858, added a grist mill, which did good business until 1859, when it was discontinued.

**Cemeteries.** Geneva cemetery was situated in section 8, township 104, range 20. It was surveyed by Chas. T. Andrews and the plat filed for record in 1885.

### HARTLAND TOWNSHIP.

The township bearing this name is one of the northern tier of townships in Freeborn county, and in the second tier from the



west. It is bounded on the north by Waseca county, on the south by the township of Manchester, on the east by Bath, and on the west by Freeborn. It is constituted as originally surveyed, of thirty-six sections, but the survey correction line passing through it cuts off 278.85 acres, making it so much less than the usual congressional township, and leaving about 22,861.15 acres. It is almost entirely a prairie township. The entire area of the town is well adapted to the modes of agriculture and crops of the day, and the farmers are, as a rule, in moderate circumstances, with good farm buildings and modern conveniences. The soil is a dark loam, from eighteen to twenty-four inches deep, underlaid with a sub-soil of clay. Rocks or stone of any kind are scarce, and there is no limestone whatever. The soil in the burr oak region of Mule lake is more of a sandy nature. There are two water courses in the town and one lake. Mule lake is situated in the four corners of sections 13, 14, 23 and 24, and constitutes the headwaters of the LeSueur river, which takes a northward course, bearing a little to the east, until it leaves the township, when it bears westwardly. Boot creek rises in section 10 and flows northwesterly to enter Waseca county. A few words as to the lake will not be out of place. The Indians named it Le Sueur, and it went by this name through the early settlement; but, in 1857, a fine span of mules belonging to B. J. Boardman were drowned in it and the settlers began designating it as Mule lake until it was as generally known under this caption as the other. The township has one village, known as Hartland.

**Early Days.** It is said that the first settlers in this township were the Boardman brothers, who came in the spring of 1857, and located about Le Sueur or Mule lake, one taking on the south and the other to the east of that body of water. Both had families and at once commenced the erection of houses. They remained for about one year and then left.

About the same time two others whose names have been forgotten made their appearance and took claims on the north and west sides of Mule lake, thus surrounding it. But little is known of the actions of any of these. Charles Sheldon joined this settlement at about the period of its starting, coming from Rochester and taking a place just north of Mule lake, in section 13. Levi Jones next put in an appearance, having come from Geneva, and jumped a claim, and during the summer he was joined by William Montgomery, who took a place just west of Uncle Sheldon's, built a house and remained until the next spring, when he left. Jens Thorson also came early that summer. In October, 1857, George McColley, of New York, accompanied by his family and brother-in-law, Charles Morehouse, came with a yoke of cattle, a cow and his household furniture, and located in section 29.



It has also been said that a Goley family came this year. Charles Morehouse settled in section 20. About the same time came the Motson family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Motson (Madsen) and the five boys, Ole, Erick, Mot, John and Andrew, who all settled about George McColley's place. In 1858 Michael Fitzgerald and wife and Thomas Donovan arrived, having driven overland from Edgerton, Wis. In 1858 other settlers who came were Gull Guttormsen, Lewis Knudson and William Beede, and during the fall of that year John P. Duncan and John Huggins came from Wisconsin. Duncan located in section 20 and Huggins in section 28, where he remained until the war broke out, when he enlisted and later lost his life fighting for the preservation of the Union. The same year witnessed the arrival of Sandy Purdie, William C. Cram, Hat. Pierce and Jonathan Pickard.

Seth Challis came in 1859, from New York state, and settled in section 31.

Among other pioneers may be mentioned: Francis E. Phipps, Peter P. Shager, Carl Hendrickson, Ole Johnson, Walter Hansen, O. A. Seim, Hugh Armstrong, Hans Johnson, Jens P. Olson, Halvor C. Siblingrud, B. W. Nolan, Gulbrand Olson, Elif Anderson, Gul. Thompson, O. Sheldon, Sivert, Louis, Ole, Knute and Thomas Knutson, Nels Pedersen, Peter Naas, Ingvald Grove and Iver Sorlie.

**Early Events.** The first birth in Hartland township was that of Mary A. McColley, August 9, 1858. Freeman Beede was another early birth. The first marriage ceremony performed within the limits of the town took place in May, 1859, the contracting parties being J. Seely and Frances Farris. The first death was that of Martha, a daughter of William and Judith Wrangham, on June 18, 1859. The township was named Hartland by Mrs. O. Sheldon in 1858, and she also bestowed the same name upon the postoffice, which was established at the same time, with O. Sheldon as postmaster. During the late war of the rebellion bonds were voted to the amount of \$1,700 to secure volunteers. John McCartney, John McClelland and Perry Haugen, of this township, never returned, the second named leaving a wife and child to mourn his loss. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 were voted to the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad as a bonus. Michael Sheehan relates some interesting incidents of the pioneer days, among which is the story of his employment as the first mail carrier in the township in 1858. He was employed by O. Sheldon, the first postmaster, to carry the mail from Geneva to Hartland postoffice. Judge E. C. Stacy was postmaster at Geneva at that time. Mike made the trip on foot every Monday, carrying the mail on his back, and received the handsome salary of a dollar a week. The first postoffice in the township is still stand-



ing on the John Donahue farm. The first school taught in the township was by Mrs. Charles Morehouse at her home in 1858. She had six pupils. The next school was in the winter of 1858, taught by James Seeley at his home. Among his pupils were Michael Fitzgerald, three Wrangham children, Peter Peterson and August Peterson.

In 1858 Rev. Isaac McReynolds, of Albert Lea, organized a Methodist class at the home of B. J. Boardman and held regular services for over a year. A church was organized in 1859 at William Wrangham's home, with six members. Rev. Corey was the pastor. A Congregational church was started in the school-house in district No. 8 by Elder Cobb. There were twelve members, and later a store building was purchased in Hartland and used for a church. Rev. Wilbur Fisk, later of Freeborn, was pastor at one time. A Presbyterian organization was effected in 1869 by Rev. William Wrallson and meetings were held regularly every three weeks for several years. The history of the Lutheran denomination is given on another page.

**Official Record.** The first town meeting was held at the house of O. Sheldon on May 11, 1858, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Supervisors, B. J. Boardman, chairman, J. L. Reynolds and J. C. Seeley; clerk, E. Boardman; assessor, T. W. Calkins; collector, B. J. Boardman; constables, Alexander Spencer and James Sheehan; justices of the peace, T. W. Calkins and O. Sheldon; overseer of the poor, Jacob Heath; overseers of roads, E. A. Calkins and B. Cromwell.

The first meeting of supervisors was held at the town clerk's office, June 14, 1858, at which the town was divided into three road districts and the following gentlemen were made overseers of them: First, E. A. Calkins; second, B. Cromwell; third, Charles Morehouse. The early records of the township are curiosities. They consist of foolscap paper fastened together, about half the pages missing, having been destroyed by someone in the early days.

### HAYWARD TOWNSHIP.

This township, which has also borne the name of Douglass, is the southeast of the six interior towns of the county, and the towns in contact with it are: Riceland on the north, Oakland on the east, Shell Rock on the south, and Albert Lea on the west. It is six miles square, like all the other towns in the county. An arm of Lake Albert Lea, three miles long and a third of a mile wide, lies near the western boundary, in a north and south direction. A stream called Peter Lunde creek enters the lake in section 7, made up of two branches arising back in the town. The land may be described as prairie, with oak openings and meadow



land interspersed, the prairie predominating. The soil as a rule is a black loam, productive of all crops in this latitude. The sub-soil is clay and gravel. The town has one village, also known as Hayward.

**Early Settlement.** Oliver Andrews, who came to Shell Rock in 1855, located his claim in Hayward township. His friends, however, were in Shell Rock, and many efforts were made to have his farm remain a part of that township, instead of being included in Hayward. Peter Lunde and Endre Gulbrandson came here in 1856. Peter Lunde had located in Mitchell county, Iowa, in the early fifties. To his home, early in the spring of 1856, came Endre Gulbrandson, a native of Norway, but a resident of Wisconsin. Gulbrandson had left his Wisconsin home and brought his family as far as Houston county, Minnesota, where he left them for a time, while he pushed on to Mitchell, where his relative, Peter Lunde, resided. Together these men came to Hayward township and selected claims, later going after their families, who arrived during the middle of the summer. In 1856 William Newlin settled in section 7, William Eddy in section 18, A. T. and Philo Butts in section 20, S. H. Ludlow in section 8, and Freeman Briggs in section 20. The same year came David Hayward, from whom the town is named. He settled on section 6 and remained about two years. Lysander R. Luce came in 1857.

Among the prominent Hayward citizens of the early days were: Andrew Sanderson, Peter Hanson, Engebrit H. Knatvold, L. W. Fay, A. N. Teslow, Nels Peterson, Christopher Nelson, Lars Lunde, Joseph Fern, J. W. Devereaux, Luther Phelps, Robert Campbell, Sr., Robert Campbell, Jr., Ole Ofsthage, Joseph Post, Moses Johnson, Ole Anderson, H. D. Brown, John Murphy, R. O. Braaten, H. C. Nelson, W. S. Waters, Andrew Frydenlund, John Frydenlund, George and Orson Buckley, John Dammen, John Park, Samuel Kirkpatrick, T. Wiley, ——— Russler, Edmond Towne, Samuel Landis, Daniel Chute, Mathias Christopherson, Prescott Hall and many others.

**Organization.** The first town meeting in response to a legal notice was held on the first Tuesday in April, 1859, at the house of S. H. Ludlow. According to the records there were two moderators, S. H. Ludlow and I. W. Devereux. The officers of the election were H. M. Luce and Charles Bush. On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at the house of Charles Bush, where the following officers were elected: Supervisors, J. W. Devereux, chairman, Peter Lunde and H. L. Dow; clerk, Charles Bush; treasurer, Peter Lunde; assessor, A. T. Butts; justice of the peace, Charles Bush; constable, H. L. Dow. The whole number of votes cast at this election was nine.



**Cemeteries.** There are two cemeteries in Hayward township, the Norwegian Lutheran cemetery, in section 9, south of the village, and the Bohemian cemetery, in the northwest corner of section 25. The Norwegian Lutheran cemetery association was organized in June, 1874, the chief mover being Endre Gulbrandson. The first burial in the cemetery was that of Arne Overby, who died in the winter of 1874. The plat of the cemetery was filed for record with the register of deeds, December 18, 1880, and the trustees at that time were: A. N. Teslow, Andrew Frydenlund and Mathias Christopherson.

**Early Events.** Ole P. Lunde, son of Peter Lunde, was the first settler to arrive by birth in this town, being born May 27, 1858.

The first known death was that of an infant child of Philo Butts, in the winter of 1858.

**Early Mills.** A wind feed mill was erected in section 8 by M. M. Luce in 1877. It was two stories in height and when there was sufficient wind it could grind 200 bushels a day.

### LONDON TOWNSHIP.

This is the southeastern subdivision of Freeborn county, with Mower county bounding it on the east, the state of Iowa on the south, the township of Oakland on the north, and Shell Rock on the west. It is a complete congressional township of thirty-six sections or square miles, and comprising the territory, technically speaking, of township 101, range 19. The greater part of the township is prairie land and is well adapted to tillage and profitable agriculture. The general inclination of the surface is rolling, although it may be said to be more level than any township in Freeborn county. In and about sections 15 and 16 is the most broken, although not enough so to be impractical for cultivation. The soil is a dark loam, rich and productive, and is underlaid with a subsoil of clay. The best farming land in the town is the eastern part. There are few streams and only one lake to water the surface of London. This body of water lies near the center of the town, and is known as Elk lake, covering the greater part of 160 acres in section 21. Two streams flow across the northeastern part of the town, and one traverses the southwest corner.

**Early Settlers.** About the first settlement made in the township was by a party of various nationalities from Wisconsin, who in 1855 settled in sections 8, 9 and 10, in what was termed the burr oak opening land. This party was made up of the Budlongs, who later moved to Shell Rock; John T. Asher from Wisconsin, who is now dead; and some of the Bullocks and Carpenters who later removed to Oakland township, where friends and relatives had preceded them.

This was about all who arrived in London in the year 1855,



and they passed the winter as best they could, depending upon each other for entertainment and keeping off despondency.

During the following year, however, many eastern people came in and located. Among those who arrived in 1856 were: William N. Goslee, a native of Connecticut, who had stopped for a time in Iowa, came from the latter place with an ox team, and in May, 1856, secured a place in section 13. Timothy F. Goslee came about the same time, but located just over the line in Mower county. Thomas Bonnallie and Roger Gibson also came this same year. Benjamin Stanton joined this party by locating in section 12. In October, 1857, while engaged in building a log house, he was killed by a stroke of lightning. Just north of Stanton, in section 1, D. R. P. Gibson, a native of Connecticut, located. H. B. Riggs, late of Michigan, joined this party and made himself a home in section 11, where he remained for a number of years, and then removed to Shell Rock, where he later died.

D. B. Germain next came and located in section 12, where he remained until 1880, when he removed to Mower county. Avery Strong, a native of New York state, was another of the arrivals in 1856, who settled in section 13. Silon Williams came from Vermont at about the same time and planted his stakes in section 11. Edward Thomas also came about the same time. William Davis and a Mr. Lunt also arrived in 1856. Section 21 received a settler this year in the person of Ole Lewis, who remained a year or two and then left the country.

In the spring of 1857 James H. Goslee left his home in Connecticut and came as far as Dubuque by rail, from there taking the stage route to St. Paul, where he was engaged for a couple of weeks, after which he came on as far as West Union with a man who had horses for sale. The snow was very deep and he was delayed for several days, but finally found a man who was on a milling trip from Chickasaw county, Iowa, and with him rode to the latter place. Here he was detained for three days by a severe blizzard, and was finally carried on to Otranto, Iowa, from whence he walked to his brother's place in Lyle, Mower county. Being favorably impressed by the country he bought a place in sections 12 and 13 in this township.

In 1858 James H. Stewart, a native of the Empire state, made his appearance in London and located in section 24. The same year Joseph Chmelik and A. Raymond, Bohemians, arrived and took claims in section 5. Among others of the early settlers in the township were: James Van Winkle, who came in 1861; Henry Lang came in 1862; John Robertson, in 1866; Persons Bump, in 1868; Arthur E. Johnston, and John Manning came in 1879.

**Early Events.** The first birth in the township occurred late in

the fall of 1856 and brought into existence George Adkins. The second birth occurred in February, 1857, being that of a child to Horace Lamb. The first death was that of Benjamin F. Stanton, who died by a stroke of lightning on October 6, 1857.

**The Name.** London received her name from New London, from which county in Connecticut came James H. and William N. Goslee. It was originally named Asher and then Lyndon, the name appearing on the county records spelled Lindon. The "New" was dropped from New London, thus giving the town its present designation.

London has a German Lutheran church in section 18, a United Brethren church in section 7 and a Norwegian Lutheran church in section 33, on the state line. There are cemeteries in sections 7 and 17.

### MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP.

This township lies in the second tier from the north and also second from the western line of Freeborn county. Its contiguous surroundings are Hartland on the north, Bancroft on the east, Pickerel Lake on the south and Carlston on the west. It contains 11,689 acres less than a full congressional township, because of the "correction line" of the survey, and has thirty-six sections, comprising the territory of township 103, range 22, in all about 22,923 acres. Originally the greater part of the town was covered with timber of small varieties, such as burr and black oak, maple, basswood, black walnut, butternut, ash and elm, interspersed with natural meadows and prairie land. The southwestern part of the town was principally burr oak opening land, except in sections 28 and 29, where is found the sugar maple, which is still to a considerable extent intact. The greater part of what was originally timber land is now under a high state of cultivation. The entire northwest portion of the town is a rolling prairie, and is among the best of farming land. The soil, as a rule, is a dark rich loam of from two to three feet in depth and underlaid with a subsoil of clay; but this is particularly applicable to the timber land, as on the prairie a lighter tendency is apparent, while the subsoil is of clay and sand. All the land is very productive and well adapted to the mode of cultivation and crops of the latitude. The prairie land is made picturesque by groves of domestic poplar, which have been planted and well cared for by the thrifty settlers. The township is well watered and has its full complement of small lakes and water courses. A cluster of small lakes is found in the southwestern part of the town, and on the map appear the names of Lake Peterson, Sugar lake, Silver lake and Lake Whitney, which are all near together on sections 20, 21, 28, 29 and 30. The only one of these having an outlet is



Lake Peterson, from which a small stream taking a southeasterly course finally leaves the town via section 36 and enters Bancroft township. South of this cluster of lakes, in section 32, Spring Lake infringes upon and covers a few acres of land. A small body of water known as Gun lake is located in the eastern part of section 9. School Section lake is located in the southeastern portion of the town, in section 36. There is but one village in the township, Manchester, located in section 15. The surface of the town is rolling, and although in places inclined to be rather abrupt in its modulations, is not hilly or in any place broken sufficiently to be detrimental to agriculture. The town is well adapted to agricultural purposes and has a large cultivated area yielding good crops of the cereals.

**Early Settlement.** The earliest attempt at settling this town commenced in 1856, when, on June 6 of that year, S. S. Skiff, a native of New York, came from Wisconsin and took a claim in section 26, where he remained until 1858, and then returned to Wisconsin, where he stayed until 1860, after which year he again returned to this locality. He made this his home until 1880 and then removed to the town of Alden. He was probably the first settler. He had, however, been here only a week, when there arrived, June 15, 1856, a party from Iowa, who were originally from Norway, but who had lived for some time in Winneshiek county, Iowa, before coming here. In the latter part of the same month there arrived another party of Norwegians, who came here from Rock county, Wisconsin. These two parties of Norwegians consisted of the following heads of families: Gunder and Rollef Thykeson; Tosten, Knud and Ole K. (Knudson) Morreim; Stiner Mikkel Mikkelsen; Nils Wangen; Ole and Per (Peter) Fossum; Anders (Andrew) Everson Lybeck; Thor Anderson; Ole and Halvor Slette (Peterson); Ole Kittleson; Ole O. Klappe; and possibly others. All of these remained except two. Stiner Mikkel Mikkelsen moved to Blue Earth City in 1864 or 1865, and Ole O. Klappe went to Bancroft in 1858, going south in 1864. Hans K. Kjonaas is also said to have come with this colony.

Among others who are honored as early settlers of Manchester township are: Mathias Anderson, John Johnson, Charles Johnson, Lewis O. Olson, Iver A. Rodsater, S. B. Smith, E. Stanley Smith, Harrison Hord, William Young, who died in the army; Siver Johnson, Erick Olson Aasen, Lewis Beach, Horace M. Beach, John O. Jordahl, John Sippel, Jens O. Jenson (Johnson), Carl Gustaveson, Sivert Thoreson, Charles Bickford, Ole Jordahl, James H. Chamberlain, Peter Huber, Andrew Severson, Bennett Asleson, John Ellingson, Dennis Sippel, Frank Sippel, E. A. Skiff, George Wadsworth, E. D. Hopkins, George Chamberlain, John Hildebrand, O. J. Taylor, A. M. Johnson, A. K. Norton, F. B.



Fisher, Daniel Hall, John O. Hall, Mads Olson, Edmond W. Hall, Hans Christopherson, H. Gilbert Barden, Mads Madsen, Halvor Kittleson; Ole, Gislle O. and Lewis L. Grasdalen and parents, Nels Ackland, Hanibal Bickford (owned land here), Peter Romanson, Elliott Ash, John Asleson, Claus Flindt, J. H. Converse, Lars Severson, Hans R. Ramsey, Andrew Anderson, B. N. Anderson, Cicero Carey, M. O. Whitney, Nels Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Ole H. Grotsan, Lewis Hallum, William D. Smith, Even J. Hallum, Edward Gilbertson, August Wishman, Pardon Tucker, Carl Leonard, Wolcott Allen, Charles Grandy, Andrew Moon, Nels Nelson, Jacob Baker, L. J. Spilde, Ambrosio Moen, S. S. Morley, Ole Peterson, Ole M. Olson, Ole Sveningson, Anton Rebbe, Henry Hoelscher, David and John Ames, and others. It is interesting to note that the northern four tier of sections were settled by Norwegians, the southern two tier by German Catholics and Americans.

**Early Events.** Mikkel Mikkelson was born in September, 1856, this being the first birth in the township. In December, 1858, occurred the first wedding, Mads Madson, who died in 1880, being the groom. Previous to this Manchester Norwegians had gone back to Iowa to be married. The first death was that of Peter Johnson, in August, 1858. The first religious services in the town were held in June, 1858, at the residence of Ole Peterson, in section 15, by a Lutheran clergyman. The church organization was not effected until 1876. The first house in the township was erected in June, 1856, by Gunder Thykeson, on section 9. It was a log building, 12x14 feet, and was afterward used as a stable. Stiner Mikkelson in July, 1856, the following month, erected the second house of the same material, and this was subsequently used as a blacksmith shop. At an early day a number of the pioneers in a rude way manufactured sorghum by using three wooden home-made rollers, propelled by a yoke of oxen, for a press; but this crude machinery has long since been supplanted by the patent process and new machinery. It is claimed that Mathias Anderson, who came from the town of Manchester, Boone county, Illinois, gave to this township its present name. Originally town meetings were held in private houses and anywhere that shelter could be found, and later in the schoolhouse of district 18, in section 22. The first blacksmith shop was erected in 1856 and operated by Mr. Mikkelson on the northwest quarter of section 15. In 1864 and 65 he sold out and went to Blue Earth county. In 1858 the next shop was erected in section 13, size 12x14 feet, and put in operation by Lewis Olson. It was of logs, with a log and sod roof, and was operated by him until about 1873, when it changed hands.

**Manchester's War Record.** It cannot be denied that this town



did its full share during the war of the rebellion. Of those who volunteered and went into the service, nine never returned, finding graves in Southern soil. S. Benson was the only married man of the departed heroes; he left a wife and two children to mourn his loss. The rest were all single men and most of their parents resided in the town at the time. Manchester voted bonds to the amount of \$4,000 for the purpose of securing volunteers to fill the quota assigned the town, which amount was duly paid and recruits secured. The Jensons (Johnson) had five sons in the war, three being killed.

**Official Organization.** The first town meeting, at which the organization was effected, was held at the house of Ole Peterson, May 11, 1858. After the usual preliminaries the meeting was called to order and the polls opened for the election of town officers for the ensuing year. Upon counting the ballots the following candidates were found to have the number of votes set opposite their names, as follows:

For chairman of supervisors, Mathias Anderson received twenty-five votes; E. S. Smith, seven. Supervisors, Ole Peterson and Tosten Knudson, unanimously elected, thirty-two votes each. Clerk, James E. Smith, thirty-two. Assessor, Bennett Asleson, twenty-five; Mathias Anderson, seven. Collector, Thomas Anderson, thirty-two. Overseer of the poor, John Ellingson, thirty-two. Constables, Charles Olson and David Ames, each thirty-two votes. Justices of the peace, James E. Smith and T. Olson, thirty-two votes each. Overseer of roads, Charles Olson, twenty-five; Ole Peterson, seven. There were in all thirty-two votes cast.

**Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Manchester.** This corporation, instituted for the protection of the farmers from fire and lightning, is growing rapidly each year. The company was organized at the Central church of the Freeborn Norwegian Lutheran Congregation on the seventh of December, 1876, on which day the following officers were elected: President, O. Peterson; secretary, I. A. Rodsater; treasurer, O. Narveson; directors, E. C. Johnson, K. Ingebrigtsen, A. N. Teslow, I. Hammer, H. Stensrud and John Madson. It commenced business on the tenth of February, 1877, and consisted at that time of 102 members, and the capital insured was \$135,172. Since then there has been a constant increase. H. C. Nelson, of Hartland, is president; Gunder O. Myran, of Manchester, is secretary, and B. E. Bottolfson is treasurer.

### **MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP.**

The township bearing this name is a full congressional township, embracing the territory of town 101, range 23. It is the southwestern subdivision of Freeborn county, its contiguous sur-



roundings being Alden on the north, Nunda on the east, Faribault county on the west and the state of Iowa on the south. As to the surface and physical features, not much can be said of this that would not readily apply to almost any other prairie town, and this is one in the full sense of the word. The northwestern part of the town is high and rolling, furnishing some of the finest farming land imaginable; but toward the south and east it becomes more level and low. In the extreme southeastern corner a ridge of high land abruptly pushes its way through the surface of the prairie, which inaugurates the area of the tableland, commencing here and extending eastward through Nunda and other towns. The soil is a dark loam, with a subsoil of sand and gravel, as a rule; but this is not invariable, for in places a marked tendency to a lighter nature is visible with a clay subsoil. Mansfield has no lakes within its borders, nor has it any streams of much importance. The largest in the township is Steward's creek, which rises in Alden and, crossing a corner of section 2, passes through the center of sections 1 and 12, forming a miniature lake in section 1, touches a corner of 13 and leaves the town on its way to Bear lake, in Nunda. Lime creek crosses the southeastern corner of the township. Another small stream rises in section 8 and, flowing northward through section 5, leaves the town and enters Alden. The geological and natural history survey of the county of Freeborn, by N. H. Winchell, state geologist, published in 1875, says of Mansfield: "This town is nearly all prairie, a small patch of oak openings occurring in sections 3, 10 and 15. The northwestern part of the township is rolling, and the southeastern is level and wet with marshes."

Mansfield township has one small hamlet, also known as Mansfield, situated in the northern part of section 9. There is a cemetery located in the northeastern part of section 16. The United Brethren church and cemetery are located in the southern part of section 7. The German Lutheran church and cemetery are in the northeastern part of section 8. The Swedish Lutheran church and cemetery are in the southern part of section 20. The Norwegian Lutheran church and cemetery are in the southeastern part of section 36.

**Early Settlement.** The earliest steps leading to the founding and subsequent development of this thriving township commenced early in 1856. The first settlers in Mansfield were the Tunell brothers, John and Henry, who came from Illinois by the way of Iowa with their families and with teams, arriving June 23, 1856, and locating on section 8. Here John remained until 1873, when he went to Oregon, while Henry remained on the farm which he originally secured in section 8. These brothers brought with them about one hundred head of cattle, and shortly after their



arrival commenced putting up hay, securing enough to carry them safely through the winter; but a prairie fire destroyed it. For a time the prospect looked dubious, but they finally managed to purchase enough hay from parties in Iowa to tide them over the winter, without a loss of more than half their stock. Shortly after these parties made their appearance Henry Schmidt and Henry Jahnke arrived and secured tracts of the government domain; Henry Schmidt located on section 10; Mr. Jahnke located in section 10. After this there were no arrivals for some time, but gradually the attention of incomers was turned this way and the government land began to disappear. Messrs. Stenaldson and Kittleson, natives of Norway, came in and located on valuable farms in section 15. Shortly after this H. Knutson, Nels Nelson, and John Kraus Haar arrived and located in the township.

Among others of the early settlers in this township were: William Jost and Hiram Pettit, who came in 1864; Alexander Peterson came in 1867; David La Valle, in 1868; Hiram J. Steward, in 1869; Benjamin H. Dillingham, in 1870; John Niebuhr, in 1872; Ole I. Opdahl, in 1874; Rev. P. G. Ostby, in 1878.

**Early Events.** It is said that the first birth in the township was that of Louisa Schmidt, on October 10, 1856. Among the first marriages in the township was one which occurred in 1864 and united August Heintz and Louisa Yost in the bonds of matrimony. The first death of a matured person was that of Mrs. Henry Schmidt, December 20, 1862. She was first buried on the farm, but her remains were subsequently removed to the Mansfield cemetery. The first religious services in the township were held in 1859 by Rev. Smith, an itinerant preacher from New Ulm.

**Political.** In earlier days Mansfield was merged into surrounding towns for local government, and the records of it as a separate organization do not commence until 1866, when they state that the first meeting was held in Henry Schmidt's house. The first officers elected were: Supervisors, Henry Tunell (chairman), John Kraus Haar and John B. Oleson; clerk, John Tunell; assessor, Nicholas Stenoldson; treasurer, John Tunell.

**Cemeteries.** German cemetery in Mansfield is located in section 16, township 101, range 23. The first trustees were: Henry Tunell, William Yost, August Hintz, Henry Seedorf. It was surveyed by John M. Marty and the plat was filed for record February 20, 1886. The various churches are also provided with cemeteries.

### MOSCOW TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the eastern towns in Freeborn county, one lying between it and the northern boundary. Its contiguous surroundings are as follows: Mower county on the east, Oakland on the

*Schmidt*  
*South of*  
*Schmidt*



south, Riceland on the west, and Newry on the north. Moscow is a full congressional township of thirty-six sections or square miles, containing 23,040 acres. Turtle creek is the principal water course in the town, entering from Riceland by way of sections 7 and 18, and taking a southeasterly course crosses the town and leaves through section 36 to enter Mower county. This stream furnishes an excellent water-power in section 22, which has been improved to some extent. Deer creek is a small stream which rises in Newry, and taking a southerly course makes a confluence with the Turtle in section 18. The soil is a clay loam, dark in places and again of a lighter nature, with a tendency to sandiness in many places. It is well adapted to agricultural purposes.

Moscow village is located in section 22. Oakland is located in section 35. Corning, in Mower county, also corners in the northeastern part of this township. There is a Baptist church in the eastern part of section 34. Cemeteries are located in sections 13, 23 and 29.

**Early Settlement.** It has been stated that the first claim in the township was taken in May, 1855, by a man named Nathan Hunt, who located in section 26 and remained for about one year and sold to Alexander Schutt, who in turn sold to Henry Fero. The next to put in an appearance after Hunt was a party composed of various nationalities: Robert Speer, a native of New York state, Thomas R. Morgan and Thomas Ellis, natives of Wales, who came from Wisconsin, where they had been for a few years, and accomplished the journey with ox teams by camping on the way. They arrived here on the first of June, 1855. It should be chronicled to the credit of the parties, as it is unusual to such journeys, that they did not travel on Sunday, and made the trip in one month. Mr. Speer took a claim in section 22, where he pitched a tent, in which he lived for some time. Mr. Morgan drove his stakes upon a place in section 28. Mr. Ellis also took a tract of land in section 28, where he lived in comfortable circumstances up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1874. James Bush, John G. and James Dunning soon after arrived, all being natives of New York state, having stopped for a time in Wisconsin and secured homes. Bush took his farm in section 27, where he erected a log house covered with bark, but he soon built a better one. James Dunning settled in section 27, where he lived until 1876, and then removed to Kansas. John G. Dunning took a claim in sections 22 and 27, where he resided until 1872, when he removed to Oregon. Evan Morgan was another of the fifty-fivers. He was a native of Wales, having become Americanized in Wisconsin, and after his arrival in Moscow tarried a while in section 21, but soon sold that place and removed to section 22. Seymour Saxon and Hanibal Bickford were here a short time.



In 1856 there were many arrivals. Stephen N. Frisbie, a native of Connecticut, came from Wisconsin early this year and secured a farm in section 35. Nathan S. Hardy, a school teacher from the Empire state, arrived and located on section 35. William Pace, an Englishman, who had been naturalized in Wisconsin, joined this little settlement by taking a place in section 34, where he remained until the time of his death in September, 1882. Henry Fero, a native of New York, came and located in section 26. George W. Dearmin and Benjamin Martin originally from North Carolina, extended the neighborhood above treated westward by securing and subduing claims in sections 28 and 29. Ashabel Barnhart, from the Buckeye state, pushed the neighborhood northward and selected his territory in section 21, where he remained until his death in 1872. Israel Pace and William Pace also came this year. Rufus K. Crum, a native of Pennsylvania, came from Indiana and took a claim in section 28. He remained for a number of years, laid out a townsite and finally removed to Iowa. With Crum came George W. Davis, of the Buckeye state, who took land in section 28. A. A. Webster, of the Empire state, came and settled in section 23, lived there awhile and then sold and removed to section 14, where he remained until 1879. About the same time David Gates, of the same descent, made his appearance, coming direct from Wisconsin, and located upon a place in section 33, but in 1875 he removed to Austin. Hiram C. Porter, a native of Vermont, came from Iowa this year and settled just north of Gates in section 28, and lived here up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1868. Another of the arrivals this year was George Watson, a native of Pennsylvania, who selected his portion of government land in section 30. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention, was elected a senator to the first Minnesota legislature, was the first postmaster of the Sumner postoffice, and in 1863 received a government appointment at St. Paul. Soon after his arrival to Minnesota he was joined by Josiah W. Hardy, a native of New York state, who came from Iowa and located on a farm in section 25. He lived here about one year, when he returned to Iowa, and in May, 1864, gave up his life in St. Louis in defense of his country. The Vanderwurkers, father and son, natives of Michigan, arrived and commenced pioneer life upon claims in Moscow, but both have removed. Robert A. Dearmin located in section 28. Four Englishmen came in about this time, in the persons of Messrs. Bridle, Prey, Hallenback and Galpin, who all took claims. A. B. Lizer, George Balton and Leonard Webster were also among the arrivals of 1856 and took farms. Lizer came from Wisconsin and located in section 35, remaining until 1879, when he went to Kansas; Balton established himself in section 33. Webster first settled



upon a farm in section 23 and remained in the town until 1880, when he went to Dakota. Tollef Oleson and Ole Tollefson arrived late in this year and squatted in section 12, where they lived for a number of years. Michael Murphy, an Irishman, also arrived that year and took a place in section 25. John Stage also came this year.

In 1857 we note the arrival of several pioneers. Among them were Francis Hardy, father of N. S. and J. W. Hardy, Hiram Rice, Daniel S. Ingraham, Samuel Degood, Samuel G. Lowry, and soon after, his son, Theophus Lowry, David M. Farr and Leonard Ware.

Among other early settlers were: J. T. Harris and William Bliss, who came in 1859; Michael McCourt, in 1868; John Guy, in 1869; Edward Lugg, in 1874.

**Early Events.** On December 26, 1855, the first birth in the township occurred, being that of Sophia Matilda, daughter of Evan and Sarah Morgan. The little girl grew to womanhood, and May 12, 1879, married A. M. Lee. The next birth was that of Eva Maria, daughter of Robert and Mary Speer. She was married in 1875 to DeForest Lincoln, and in 1881 died at Alexandria, leaving one child. Alfred Silas, a son of Henry and Mary A. Fero, was also among the early births in Moscow, dating October 29, 1856. The first marriage in the township was that of George Bridle and Miss Galpin, which took place in October, 1856, Rev. Stephen Cook, of Austin, officiating. Another of the early marriages was that of George W. Dearmin and Lucia Campbell, May 17, 1859, Rev. Theopholis Lowry officiating. Nathan S. Hardy and Amanda A. Pace were married August 10, 1859, by the Rev. Stephen Cook. A child of an Englishman, named Gilpin, died in 1856, this being the first death recorded in the township. Harriet, wife of James Bush, died December 25, 1859. In 1856 Elbridge Gerry, of New York, opened a store in a log house in section 28, where he sold dry goods, boots and shoes, and groceries. After about a year Mr. Gerry returned to New York. This was the first store in the township.

Moscow is one of the towns of distinguished prominence in the settlement, organization and early political history of the county. S. N. Frisbie was one of the three first commissioners. Dr. Watson, also a citizen of this town, was not only one of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1857, but enjoyed the honor of a seat in the state senate for the first three terms. The Rev. S. G. Lowry, also of this town, may be regarded as the pioneer clergyman and for years answered calls, picking his trackless way to all parts of the county. A heavy body of timber, on section 17, was long previous known as the Moscow woods, and this suggested to the early settlers the name of the town.



**Early Interests.** In 1857 Messrs. Lindsey & Owens put up a steam sawmill in section 21, equipping it with a circular saw and power sufficient to cut 3,500 feet per day. In 1858 a burr for the purpose of grinding feed was attached and the mill run for both a sawmill and feed grinding. Thus the industry continued until about 1866, when the machinery was removed to Wisconsin. The first blacksmith shop originated through the energy of Robert Speer, who in the fall of 1855 erected a small shanty, put in tools and during the winter following did considerable blacksmithing. In 1856 he put up a substantial log building in which to carry on his business, and the pioneers came all the way from Blue Earth county for plow-sharpening. Mr. Speer carried on the business until 1877. J. H. McIntire in 1877 put in machinery and commenced operating a sorghum mill for the manufacture of syrup.

**Fair View Cemetery** is situated in section 29, township 103, range 19. The first trustees were: J. S. Harris, T. R. Morgan, S. W. Pitts, N. F. Earl, W. Mann, N. B. Van House, N. N. Earl. It was surveyed by A. C. Spicer. It was filed for record March 28, 1876.

### NUNDA TOWNSHIP.

The subdivision of Freeborn county bearing this name lies in the southern tier of towns and within one of the western boundary of the county. Its contiguous surroundings are Pickerel lake on the north, Freeman on the east, Mansfield on the west and the state of Iowa on the south. It is constituted as originally surveyed, of thirty-six sections, or 23,040 acres. Nunda is, locally speaking, a prairie township, although the eastern part was formerly what is called "oak opening" land, and there were some fine groves of maple, butternut, bass, iron wood and occasionally walnut about the lakes. The north and west parts of the town are made up of rolling prairie, with a soil of dark loam, underlaid with a subsoil of clay. The southern and eastern part of the township is more given to soil of clayey nature and quite rocky in places. In an early day B. H. Carter burned limestone boulders to a certain extent. This town is well watered by numerous brooks, rivers and lakes, which diversify the scenery and make of Nunda a picturesque and beautiful township. Bear lake, the largest in the township, is a beautiful sheet of water, covering about 1,500 acres in the western portion of the town, while a stream known as Lime creek is its outlet, and takes a south-westerly course to finally empty into the Shell Rock river. Lower Twin lake is a body of water lying in the northwestern part of the town, containing several islands of a few acres each. This is connected by a stream called "The Inlet," with the Upper Twin lake, which infringes on this township to the extent of about



220 acres in section 2. It is supposed that the lakes received the names of Upper and Lower Twin lakes from the fact of their similarity in size. Goose creek constitutes the outlet of these lakes, and flows through sections 12 and 13 on its way eastward to Freeman township, eventually to help swell the Shell Rock. State Line lake, which name was suggested by the fact that the extreme southern point of the lake touches the Iowa and Minnesota state lines, is the smallest in town, covering about 400 acres of land, mostly in section 33; from this flows a creek bearing the same name and entering Iowa. All of these lakes abound in fish of various species, among which are pickerel, suckers, bass and bullheads. Almost all of the land in the town is under a high state of cultivation, and as the soil is rich and well adapted to the crops and modes of cultivation of the day, as a natural sequence the farmers are all in comfortable circumstances.

Nunda township has two villages—Emmons and Twin Lakes. Norman is just over the line in Iowa. There is a town hall in section 15, and the township also has a number of churches and cemeteries.

**Early Settlement.** The early or earliest settlement of Nunda dates back to 1856, and was rapid and constant until all the vacant land was secured and occupied. Among, if not the first settlers in the township, were James Wright and Anthony Bright, who came in the winter of 1855-56 and commenced what was known as the Bear lake settlement. Wright took a claim on section 16 and remained until 1857, when he sold to John V. Wohlhuter. Anthony Bright took a place in section 21, south of Wright, and in 1857 sold out and left. Patrick Fitzsimmons, a native of Ireland, made his appearance from Winneshiek county, Iowa, and joined this settlement in May, 1856. He took a claim in section 16, where he lived up to the time of his death, which occurred July 18, 1866. It was he who named the township Nunda, in honor of towns of the same name in which he had lived in New York and Illinois. He was a prominent man in the township. Frederick McCall, still a resident of Nunda township, came in and settled in section 14. Nels Bergeson and Nels Nelson Valaker, natives of Norway, came to Minnesota in 1856; the first came direct to this town and took a place in section 28; the latter did not arrive here until 1859. It should have been mentioned in connection with the above that Charles Fitzsimmons and Irvin Elsworth came in the early part of 1856, and it is said by some that they were the first. Fitzsimmons placed his signet upon a quarter of section 16, where he remained until 1868, and then removed to Martin county, Minnesota. Elsworth pre-empted a place in section 14, where he lived for about one year. In the fall of this year (1856) Harry Brown arrived in the township and



made a habitation in section 7, where he remained until 1858. Seneca Stockdale was a native of Ohio, having been born March 26, 1801, and after attaining the age of fifty-five came to the township of Nunda, arriving July 14, 1856. He took a farm in section 1, where he remained for about thirteen years, and then removed to section 3, remaining here until his death, which occurred February 7, 1871. Henry G. Emmons, one of the most prominent men of the county, came in this year and established himself in the southern part of the township. Others who came in 1856 were Erick Erickson, Nels Olson, Finley Stockdale and Charles Grimm, who lived outside of the township but had land here.

The year 1857 marked a large influx in population. Nelson Boughton, a native of New York, took a farm on section 35, where he lived until 1859, when he was murdered by Henry Kreigler. Alonzo White, of Vermont, came about the same time and settled in the same section, where he lived until 1859, after which he went back to the East. James Carle, of the same nativity, also came at the same time and took land in sections 34 and 35, where he lived until 1860. Lafayette Hall, of New York, came and settled in this vicinity; in 1860 he went to the eastern part of the state. Michael Donahue had arrived in the spring of 1857 and settled a mile or so north in section 23. Martin Forbes also came at the same time and settled on the same section. John Honan, a native of Ireland, came in 1857 and settled on section 24. John M. Geissler, a native of Germany and one of the pioneers of Freeborn county, came to Nunda in 1857 and selected a place in sections 3 and 10. He was one of the most prominent men in the township in public matters and held many offices of trust and importance. John V. Wohlhuter, a native of Germany, came to America in 1847 and in the fall of 1857 to this township and purchased a farm near Bear Lake. R. A. White made his appearance in the spring of this year and settled on section 9. William White and son, Frederick, came to this country at the same time. George Hall and Johnson Hall, from the Eastern states, came to Nunda in the spring of 1857 and took farms in sections 3 and 4, where the latter lived for a time and then went east. John Donahue, originally from the Emerald Isle, but later from Illinois, arrived in July, 1857, and settled with his parents on section 14. Others who came in 1857 were Soren Sorenson, John Banning, Patrick Duffy and John Roach.

In 1858 the Cunningham family settled on section 23. Narve Esleson, of Norway, secured a habitation in section 33. Knudt Oleson in 1861 had also secured land and has since been joined by others of his countrymen. John McGuire, a native of Ireland, on the 23d of June, 1860, made his appearance and settled on sec-

tion 14. B. H. Carter, a native of the Eastern States, arrived in Nunda in 1861 and located in section 1. Narve Flaaten, Peter Larson, Tosten Nelson, Stenger Jellum, Hogan Rasmusson and others also came in 1858.

Among other early settlers in the township were: N. N. Walker and Helge Larson, who came in 1860; Louis Marpe and Toston Nelson, came in 1863; Jerry Callaghan, in 1864; Iver O. Opdal and William Pickle (to Freeman in 1859), in 1865; J. R. Jones and Christ Yost, in 1866; Ole Toraldson, in 1867; Andrew Thompson, in 1868; H. H. Edwin and Ellef Evenson, in 1874; Alexander Freemott, in 1876.

**Township Organization.** Politically speaking, the residents of Nunda first came together in 1857, late in the fall, for the election of a representative in the territorial legislature, and in the spring following, an organization of the township was effected, and later on May 11, 1858, they again assembled, and made their organization substantial by the election of town officers. Among the first officials were: Supervisors Patrick Fitzsimmons, chairman; J. V. Wohlhuter, and Henry Tunell; clerk, William B. Spooner. This meeting was held in John Hoffman's house, in section 22.

**Early Events.** Among the early births in the township were: Louis H. Emmons, who was born December 30, 1856; John David McCall, February 24, 1858. In the fall of 1856 the first marriage took place, being that of Louis Proebstein and Elizabeth Banning. Another early marriage was that of Isaac Kendall and Christina Clark, in April, 1858. The first death recorded in the township was that of Jacob Zimmerman, on March 23, 1858. Mrs. Patrick Fitzsimmons died in November, 1858.

**Business Industries.** A blacksmith shop, located in section 4, was opened in the spring of 1866, of which William Pickle was the owner. In 1876 another shop was established in the northeast part of section 30, and H. H. Evenson was the owner. In September, 1880, a general merchandise store was started by George Emmons, in section 32. This was continued until December 6, 1881, when it was moved to Norman, Iowa. A blacksmith shop was established in the southwestern part of section 9 by John Bettner in 1876. In the spring of 1872, Mr. George Reim erected a shop and commenced blacksmithing in section 8. A sorghum mill was started in section 8 in 1873, which had a capacity of about forty gallons per day.

**Cemeteries—State Line Cemetery.** This burial ground is located on the Iowa and Minnesota state line, in section 32, containing about one acre of land surveyed into lots. The ground was platted and laid out in 1861, on the land owned by T. Nelson. The first burial was that of Christina Emmons.



**St. James Catholic Cemetery.** Located in the central part of section 24, was laid out and dedicated to burial purposes August 29, 1876, land being donated by John Honan. The first burial was that of John Honan, September 9, 1876.

**Bear Lake cemetery** was located in section 4, township 101, range 22. The first trustees were: R. A. White, W. P. Pickle, S. A. Foster, Wm. P. Spooner and John M. Geissler. It was surveyed by John M. Mertz. The plat was filed for record March 8, 1876.

**Brush Hill cemetery** was located in section 15, township 101, range 22. The first trustees were: Louis Marpe, Louis Yost and J. H. F. Leonhardi. It was surveyed by H. C. Lacy, and the plat filed for record July 2, 1878.

### NEWRY TOWNSHIP.

This is the northeast township of Freeborn county and is therefore one of the most prominent towns as to the location. Its boundaries are as follows: Steele county on the north, Mower county on the east, Moscow township on the south, and Geneva on the west. It is a full congressional township, embracing the territory of township 104, range 19. The surface of the town is quite rolling and is made up mostly of oak opening land. The greater part of the prairie land is found in the northern part of the town. The soil in the west, north and eastern parts is a dark loam of from two to three feet in thickness, and underlaid with a subsoil of blue clay; and in the southern and central part it is more sandy, with a subsoil of gravel. There are not so many water courses or lakes in this town as in a majority of its neighbors, yet it is not altogether devoid of them. A small body of water lying in section 2 is known as Newry lake, Oak, or Johnson's lake, lies in section 26, and from it flows a substantial little stream which empties into Deer creek in the northern part of section thirty-four.

Newry township has a hamlet of the same name located in the southern part of section 9. St. Mary's Catholic Church is located in section 18, and the cemetery is south of it. The Red Oak Grove Norwegian Lutheran Church is over the line in Mower county.

**Early Settlement.** The Red Oak Grove locality extends into this township, and it is believed that as early as 1855 several members of the Norwegian colony that came to Oak Grove settled over the line in this county. Ellof Kinetson and family, natives of Norway, were the first to arrive, making their appearance in 1855, and claiming a place in section 25, where they remained until 1874, when Mr. Kinetson died and was buried in Mower

county. The family, with the exception of the youngest son, Halver Ellofson, removed in 1876 to Otter Tail. Christian Erick Rukke and family, natives of Norway, who had stopped for a time in Illinois, were among the number to arrive this year, and they took a claim in section 36, where they remained until 1868, when they secured a place in section 26. Helge Oleson came at the same time from the same place, and planted his stakes in section 10.

In the spring of 1856 a colony of Irishmen came from Illinois and secured homes. The party consisted of Thomas Fitzsimmons, William and John Bell, John Brennan, and Patrick Creegan, and all of the party settled on land near the center of the town. About the same time Ole O. Thorson, a native of Norway, came from Dane county, Wisconsin, and secured a home in section 36, where he remained until 1857, when he removed to Olmstead county. In 1856 Christian E. Rukke also located in the township. The following year settlers came in so rapidly that it is impossible to trace them in sequence, and by 1860 all of the government land in the township that was really valuable had been taken. Thomas A. Helvig was one of the settlers, locating in section 13, in 1867.

**Early Events.** The first birth in the township occurred February 9, 1856, being that of a daughter to Christian E. and Randi N. D. Johnson, who resided in section 36. The child grew to womanhood in the township, and, in 1876, married John G. Quamm. The first marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. C. L. Clauson June 5, 1858, and united the destinies of Halver Ellofson and Caroline Fingerson, the latter of whom died six months later, this being the first death in the township.

**Organization.** The town was organized May 11, 1858, and the first officers elected were as follows: Supervisors, John Brennan, chairman; Daniel Hollywood, and William Bell; clerk, Thomas Fitzsimmons; treasurer, C. E. Johnson; assessor, Patrick Creegan; justice of the peace, Thomas Hollywood.

### OAKLAND TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the eastern towns of Freeborn county, and is bounded as follows: Moscow township on the north, Oakland on the south, Mower county on the east, and Hayward township on the west. It is a full congressional township, the integrity of the original government survey remaining unchanged, as in all the towns of the county. Unlike all other of Freeborn county's subdivisions, this has no lakes or water courses; but water can be obtained by boring to a reasonable depth. A little brook is marked upon the map as rising in the northern part of section 6 and flowing northward into Moscow. The entire western part of the



town was originally made up of what is termed "oak opening" land, or prairie and natural meadows dotted with groves of small growth burr and black oak timber, and there was also considerable moderately heavy timber. The eastern part is prairie land with the usual rolling tendency, which, toward the south, becomes rather low and marshy, yet not sufficiently so to be wholly impractical for agriculture. The soil is a rich dark loam, with a subsoil of clay and gravel, and the entire township is well fitted for the crops and modes of farming of the present day, yielding abundant harvests.

Oakland has one village, bearing the same name as the township, and located in section 2. Crayon Park is the name applied to a locality in section 6. The Bohemian Dance Hall is in the southwestern part of section 30. There is a cemetery in section 22. The Norwegian Lutheran Church and cemetery are located in the northeastern part of section 6.

**Early Settlement.** It has been stated that the first settlement in the township of Oakland was made in 1855, by a party from Illinois. This party consisted of G. W. Carpenter and family, and W. L. Carpenter, with Joel Bullock and family and Lemuel Bullock. George W. Carpenter located in section 10; W. L. Carpenter, a young man, secured a piece of land in section 3; Joel Bullock, with his family, made himself at home in section 4, and Lemuel Bullock made a claim in section 3.

The next settlement was made near the center of the town by a party of Irishmen, who arrived in July, 1856. Cornelius Kennevan, together with his family, among whom were three sons, came at this time, and located upon a good farm in section 22, where he remained until the time of his death, which occurred in 1880. John Murane, a native of Ireland, arrived at the same time and located in section 27. He remained upon his original homestead until 1874. Within a few weeks after the arrival of these Irishmen, a couple of Norwegian brothers, Ole and George O. Gunderson, late of Wisconsin, made their appearance and took claims just north of the above mentioned parties, in and about section 9. Ole took a claim of 160 acres in this section, brought his family and erected a log hut among other improvements. He remained here until 1877. Francis Merchant, Sr., a Frenchman, was also among the arrivals of 1856, and settled in section 1. Reuben Babcock was among the arrivals of 1856, coming in November of that year from Illinois, and filed upon 160 acres in section 15, where he located his family, erected a log house, and remained until 1859, when he sold his place and removed to Albert Lea. Asa Bullock, Jr., a native of Vermont, arrived in Oakland in the latter part of October, 1856, and pre-empted 160 acres, where he erected a log house and remained until 1864.



**Early Events.** The first birth in the township was that of a child to Samuel Bullock and wife, in February, 1856. The first marriage of parties living in Oakland took place in the winter of 1855 and 1856, and united W. L. Carpenter to Prudence Bullock, and L. E. Bullock to Yuba Carpenter, being a double wedding. It is said that the first death in Oakland occurred in the spring of 1858, being that of Asa Bullock, the father of a large family of early pioneers, who had, in 1857, located in section 9. W. L. Carpenter and L. E. Bullock turned the first sod in the way of breaking in the township, in section 3, in the spring of 1856. They also put up the first dwelling houses in Oakland, of logs.

**Town Organization.** The town was organized May 11, 1858, at a meeting held at the home of Thomas Riley, in the north-eastern part of the township. Asa Bullock was chosen moderator, and 31 votes were cast, resulting in the election of the following officers: Supervisors, Asa Bullock, chairman; Willard L. Carpenter, and Henry Hollenshead; clerk, Cornelius Kennevan; collector, John Murane; assessor, John Murane; justice of the peace, Cornelius Kennevan; constable, James Robinson; overseer of the poor, James Robinson; pound master, Asa Bullock, Jr. In 1864, bonds were voted to the amount of \$1,000 to pay bounty to volunteers to fill the quota assigned the town and thus prevent a draft. In the spring of 1865 another special meeting was held and again bonds were voted.

### PICKEREL LAKE TOWNSHIP.

The township bearing this appellation is among the center towns of Freeborn county, having as its contiguous surroundings, the township of Manchester on the north; Nunda on the south; Albert Lea on the east; and Alden on the west. It is constituted as originally surveyed by the government officers, of thirty-six sections, or 23,040 acres. The surface of the town may be said to be diversified, as it comprises both timber and prairie. In early days the greater part of the eastern half of the town was timber of divers varieties, among which were burr and black oak, maple, basswood, beach, elm, butternut, and some black walnut. The surface is rolling, in places given to abrupt hills called "knolls," which also help to make the scenery picturesque. One of these, known as "Jennings Point," in section 2, rises higher than the surrounding country, and is the highest point in the county, it being 1,342 feet above the level of the ocean, and 667 feet above Lake Superior. The soil, in the eastern part, is a rich dark loam of from two to two and one-half feet in depth; underlaid by a sub-soil of yellow clay of about twenty feet, beneath which lies the blue clay. Toward the west the soil becomes of a lighter nature,



with a tendency to sandiness, the depth of which varies from eight to eighteen inches; having a gravel loam and sand subsoil of twelve feet, underneath which is the sand bed. There is no lime or sandstone to speak of, but in places there is a profusion of boulders. The best of water is found at reasonable depth. The township is well watered by various lakes and streams. White's lake lies in the northeastern part of the town, covering about 160 acres in section 1; this was originally known as Albert Lea Lake, but since 1856, when A. W. White preëmpted a claim touching it, the lake has been known under its present name. Pickerel lake, after which the town was named, derived its appellation from the abundance of fish of this name found in its waters. It lies in the eastern part of the town, in sections 13 and 24, and extends into the town of Albert Lea. In sections 23 and 26 are located the Little Oyster lakes, so called because of their shape. Next comes the upper Twin lake, the largest body of water in the township, lying in the southeastern part, mostly in section 35, and extending southward to make connection with its twin, the Lower lake, which lies in Nunda township. The lakes of this town are the headwaters of the Shell Rock river.

There are two villages in this township, Clover and Armstrong. There is a German Lutheran church in section 21, and a cemetery in section 16. The German Methodist Episcopal church is in section 23, and there is a cemetery in the same section.

**First Settlement.** Charles and William Wilder (or as many spell it, Weilder) and A. D. Pinkerton, made their appearance and located on and about section 12 in 1855. Charles Wilder at once commenced and completed the first dwelling shanty in the township. John H. Snyder, a land speculator, arrived the same year.

In the following spring, 1856, John Ruble, a native of Pennsylvania who had stopped for a time in Rock county, Wisconsin, made his appearance and was the next settler in the township. He brought his family with him and settled upon 160 acres in section 11, where he opened the first farm in the township. In the fall of the same year another settler located in this section. This was A. W. White, after whom the lake was named. He was a native of the Empire state, and remained upon his farm until 1861, when he removed to the village of Albert Lea. Christian Bohle came with his family and located in section 15. Henry Schneider, who later achieved much prominence, and Frederick Fink, who also became a prominent settler, lived with Bohle during the winter of 1856-57.

In 1857 Louis Marpe settled in section 29, but in 1866 moved to Nunda township.

Section 11, in the Ruble settlement, received an additional



settler also about the same time as the last named, in the fall of 1857, in the person of Frederick Woodward, fresh from the "Badger State," who secured a habitation there and remained until 1861, when he enlisted in the army, and upon his return settled in Iowa, where he lived up to the time of his death. In 1857, Charles and A. K. Norton, natives of the "Green Mountain" state, came here. Charles planted his stakes on a farm in sections 13 and 14, while his brother, A. K. Norton, bought land in sections 13 and 23, where he remained until 1861, when he enlisted in the army, and upon his return settled elsewhere. Luther Smith also arrived this year. He was a native of New York and settled in section 3, where he lived until the war broke out when he also enlisted.

E. Jennings, a native of New York, first made his appearance in this township in the spring of 1862, but returned to Illinois for his family which he had left there, and he came again in 1865, and settled in sections 2 and 3.

The settlement in the western portion of the township did not commence until about 1860, when L. L. Lovell made his appearance and took a farm in or adjoining what was afterwards known as Lovell's grove in section 8. W. G. Bloe came with Lovell from the eastern states and took a place in section 18. He remained here until 1872 when he left the country. In 1863, Mortimer Whitney came and took a place in section 7 where he remained until 1871, when he removed to Owatonna. N. H. Stone, a native of Pennsylvania, was another early settler, arriving in 1864. Knudt Knudtson, a native of Norway, arrived during the same year.

Others among the early settlers, who were associated with the history of the township, were: B. A. Cady, who came in 1861; William Schneider, came in 1862; Anson Hanf, in 1864; Henry Eberhardt, in 1865; John George Widman, in 1872; August Yost, in 1876.

**Cemeteries.**—**Salem Cemetery** of the town of Pickerel Lake was situated in section 23, township 102, range 22. The first trustees were Geo. Drommerhausen, Claus Flindt, Wm. Schneider. It was surveyed by Wm. G. Keller, and it was filed for record September 6, 1882.

**Official Record.** At a meeting of the county commissioners, held at Albert Lea September 5, 1865, a petition was presented, signed by William C. Pentecost and twenty-four other legal voters and residents of Pickerel Lake, asking to be separated from Albert Lea and made a separate political organization. The request was granted, and on motion of Commissioner Andrews, it was ordered by the board that \$400 of a special tax of \$1,500, voted for roads and bridges, and for finishing the county build-



ings, be granted Pickerel Lake for roads and bridges. The board then selected the following as township officers until the time of the annual election: Supervisors, John Ruble, chairman; J. France, and J. H. Converse; clerk, A. W. White; treasurer, E. Jennings; justices of the peace, R. C. Cady, and William Schneider; constables, O. Kenfield and Peter Lampman. The clerk refused to qualify, but his place was filled by the appointment of R. C. Cady. The first annual election was held at the house of John Ruble April 3, 1866, and the following officers were elected: Supervisors, John Ruble, chairman; Joseph France, and J. H. Converse; justices of the peace, R. C. Cady and William Schneider; assessor, John Ruble; treasurer, E. Jennings; constables, William Weiser and O. Kenfield; clerk, R. C. Cady, overseer of highways, A. C. Howe, W. C. Whitney, J. Smith, E. Ames, and A. C. Davis. Peter Lampman was afterward appointed to fill a vacancy.

**Early Events.** The first death to occur in the township was that of Mrs. Christian Bohle in January, 1859. She had been living in section 15. The first marriage in the town took place July 6, 1859, being that of Frederick Fink and Frederica Weiser. The first birth within the limits of the town was September 14, 1857, being that of a daughter of John and Harrietta Ruble, in the old log house in section 12.

**Industrial Enterprises.** At an early day John Ruble erected a shop on his place in section 12. In the year 1868, Anson Hanf erected on section 11 a 16x20 frame shop in which he did blacksmithing until 1876, when he made it a part of his barn. Later, in 1878, he built a new shop. He was Albert Lea's second blacksmith. Several parties, in the latter part of the sixties, burned lime in section 12 with moderate success

### RICELAND TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the eastern townships of Freeborn county, lying in the second tier from the north, as well as the eastern county line. Its contiguous surroundings are as follows: Geneva township on the north; Moscow on the east; Hayward on the south, and Bancroft on the west. It is a full congressional township of thirty-six sections or square miles, containing about 23,040 acres. A large marsh originally extended across the southwest corner, which the Indians said was originally a lake of great depth and large. It was also said that the water, or the greater portion of it, suddenly ebbed away and disappeared, leaving boats and canoes on dry land, as if by magic. The marsh has recently been ditched. The soil of the town is generally dark loam; but on the knolls there is a marked tendency to clay. A good acreage



is under a high state of cultivation. The low lands are brought into use as hay land and the crops raised are as abundant as valuable. Rice lake is one of the larger lakes of Freeborn county. The name originated among the Indians from the abundance of wild rice in this locality. The lake lies in the northeastern part of the township.

The old village of Fairfield was located in this township. Lerdal is a small settlement centering about a creamery. The cemeteries are located in section 9 and the Danish Lutheran Church is also in the same section.

**Early Days.** The following article was prepared by D. G. Parker, and read by him to the old settlers at their annual reunion in 1877, as follows: "Ole C. Olson and Ole Hanson first settled this town in August, 1856. The former put up a log house in the same month, and opened the first farm in the latter part of that season. Samuel Beardsley, a blacksmith, commenced business in the same year, and was the first mechanic. George P. Bracket was the first merchant, and opened business in 1857. In 1859 Amy Baker taught in a private house the first public school. The first schoolhouse was built in 1864. In 1858 the Rev. Mapes held the first religious services. The Methodists, in 1859, established the first organization. Stephen Beardsley and Sarah Croy were the first parties married, George P. Bracket performing the ceremony. In April, 1858, the first child was born, in the person of Caroline Olson. The first death was that of Mr. Shortledge, who was frozen in April, 1857. Isaac Baker was the first chairman of supervisors, and a Mr. Snyder the first clerk. The town was organized at the January session of the county board in 1858." Among others who were prominent early settlers the names are remembered a few who will be briefly mentioned: Samuel A. Beardsley and John Hull, his son-in-law, together with their families, came by ox team from Illinois, brought considerable stock, and settled on the south side of Rice Lake. Beardsley remained until about 1860, when he removed to Wisconsin, and from there went to Otter Tail county, Minnesota. Hull remained a short time and went to Wisconsin. Ole Halvorsen, Hans Larson, and Ole Christianson were the first Norwegians to settle in the town, and with them Bottler Winjum came. He located in section 31. In 1858 a number settled in the township, among whom were Charles Williams. ——— Brackett, Joseph Neil, Nels and James Snyder, Nick and John Reims, John Bell, and Thomas Walaska. About this time, or possibly before, quite a family of pioneers put in an appearance in the persons of Deacon Isaac Baker, his wife, Phoebe, and their children, William H., Charles E., Margaret N., Amy J., Rhoda, and Sarah E. Baker. They settled upon section 20. Soon after this party had got settled, Nathan P. Amy



and Charles Bartlett, from the eastern states, arrived, the former bringing the first team of horses. William L. McNish was another early settler.

**Early Events.** The first birth in the township occurred April 23, 1858, being that of Caroline Oleson. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole C. Oleson, who lived upon a farm in section 30. The earliest marriage of which there is any record took place January 1, 1858, and joined the future destinies of Stephen Beardsley and Sarah Croy. It has been stated that the first death which occurred within the limits of Riceland was that of Martha Hull, in October, 1857. The next death recorded was that of Sarah Baker July 18, 1859, from a stroke of lightning. The first school taught in the district was held at the residence of Harry Beardsley, in section 16, in the summer of 1859, Amy Baker being the instructor. The first religious services held in the township were presided over by the Rev. Phelps, in the spring of 1857, at the residence of Samuel Beardsley. The township of Riceland originally bore the name Beardsley, in honor of an early and prominent pioneer; but it was finally changed by the residents to Riceland, suggested by the name of the lake.

**Early Industries.** The first blacksmith shop in the town was opened in the fall of 1857, in a little log hut in the northern part of section 15, by Samuel A. Beardsley. John Peterson, a Norwegian, in 1880, erected a one-story, 18x20 foot, frame building in section 18, and opened a shop for shoeing, repairing and blacksmithing generally. In 1857, buildings were erected on the south shore of Rice lake, or rather a shanty, by Samuel A. Beardsley, who moved machinery from Rice county and commenced operating a steam sawmill. The establishment continued turning out lumber for about one year when it was removed to Itasca, when the machinery was first moved from Faribault, Rice county. In 1880, N. P. Bartelson, a native of Denmark, erected a structure, put in two run of stones, and attaching it to a sixteen-foot winged windmill, commenced grinding feed, etc. The stones are what is here termed hardheads, and were dug from the ground in the vicinity of the mill, and manufactured into buhrs by Mr. Bartelson. The establishment cost about \$300.

**Township Organization.** As stated elsewhere, this township was originally known under the caption of Beardsley. The first town meeting was held at the residence of Samuel A. Beardsley. It has been said that the first officers were: Supervisors, Isaac Baker, chairman; Charles Williams, and James Harris; clerk, James Snyder.

**Cemeteries.** Riceland cemetery is located in section 9, township 103, range 20. The first trustees are Peter Peterson and

C. U. Christenson. It was surveyed by Frank H. Fisk. It was filed for record March 17, 1900. The Advent cemetery is located in the same section.

### SHELL ROCK TOWNSHIP.

The township bearing this name is one of the southeastern of Freeborn county, lying contiguous to Iowa on the south, London township on the east, Freeman on the west, and Hayward on the north. It is a full congressional township, containing 23,040 acres. Shell Rock is mostly a prairie town. The surface is generally rolling, but there are no hills or bluffs sufficiently abrupt to be detrimental to agriculture. The soil is a light loam, well adapted to the prevailing mode of agriculture. The name of the town was taken from that of the river, Shell Rock, which flows through the eastern part from north to south.

The township has a number of cemeteries. A Lutheran Church and cemetery are in section 12, and a Methodist Episcopal Church is in section 29.

**Early Settlement.**.. This township witnessed the first actual settlement ever made in Freeborn county. The story of this settlement by Ole Colbjornson Livdalen is told elsewhere.

In September, 1855, John Stanley, a native of the New England States, but then from California, took a claim on the corner of sections 19, 20, 29 and 30. He brought with him quite a herd of cattle; but as he had but little very poor hay, it is claimed that all of the stock died. Stanley remained three or four years. He then went east and brought back with him the Smiths, Hugh John and James A., natives of Canada, who both took claims. D. R. Young and Ed. Ripley came about this time also.

Then in the spring of 1856, came the next settler, in the person of William Beighley, who had been here the year previous, accompanied by his brother Jacob, T. J. Gordon, and E. Maybee. In April, 1856, he again made his appearance upon the scene, and bought the claim which Livdalen had settled on. In May his brothers, Jacob and S. P. Beighley, came with teams, bringing William's family, and they at once selected claims, the former in sections 32 and 33, and the latter in 33 and 28. With this party came J. B. Gordon, who selected his claim in section 30, west of the river; but when his father, T. J. Gordon, a native of Pennsylvania, arrived in the fall and took up a claim in section 28. In the summer of 1856, Rev. Walter Stott came. A little later in the season—1856—James Allen came in and settled in section 30, on the town line, and remained for about one year when he disposed of it to Peter Beighley, and finally went to



Tennessee. The latter named also took a claim in section 32, where he lived until the time of his death, in 1872 or 1873. Andrew J. Lang also came in 1850. Chris. Oleson, a Norwegian, late from Pennsylvania, located on a farm in sections 31 and 32, in June, 1856. He was a blacksmith by trade. The McCalls lived here a time before settling in Nunda.

In the spring of 1857, Warren Barber, a native of New York, came and settled within the limits of the township, in section 29. Other Beighleys came the same year.

But in the meantime the northern portion of the township began its evolutions toward civilization, and by the time of the last mentioned arrival it counted a goodly number as a neighborhood. Early in the spring of 1855, William Rice came from Wisconsin and commenced the settlement in the northern part of the township by taking a claim in section 8. In the spring of the following year William went to St. Nicholas, in Albert Lea township, and started a hotel there under the sign of "St. Nicholas Hotel." He was mail carrier for the village, and on one of his trips, December 3, 1856, he got lost, and after wandering about for three days brought up at Plymouth; but he was so badly frozen that he died in a few days. This was the second death in Freeborn county. Almost immediately following Rice, a little colony from Wisconsin made their appearance and swelled the Shell Rock settlement, arriving in June, 1855. This party consisted of Gardner Cottrell and family, George Gardner and family, Madison Rice, with his mother and her family. C. T. Knapp and family, and a couple of others whose names have been forgotten. The first mentioned, Gardner Cottrell, stopped for a time on the Rice place, which he soon after took for himself and remained upon it for about one year, when he opened the first store in Shell Rock village. George Gardner located upon section 6, where he remained until 1880, when he went to Northwood. Madison Rice, with his mother, settled in section 8, and here remained until after the war, when he took up his goods and chattels and removed to Wisconsin. Mr. Knapp was not behind the rest of the party, and immediately after his arrival took a farm in section 36, just over the line in Albert Lea township. Here he lived until 1877, when he removed to the village of Shell Rock, and in the year following opened a meat market. The Andrews family, among whom may be mentioned Oliver, William, Clark and James, settled on and over the line in Hayward.

The next spring—1856—F. L. Cutler and John Smith came, arriving in May. Butler was an eastern man, coming from Iowa to this place, and bought the claim settled by Gardner. He finally, after service in the Minnesota First during the war, sold



his place and went to Freeborn, and from there drifted down to Missouri. He was quite a sport and jockey, and took great delight in fast horses. John Smith took land on both sides of the town lines of Shell Rock and Freeman. About this time came Joseph Marvin, John Wood, and John Eddy. In May, 1856, Anthony C. Trow, a native of New Hampshire, came from Mitchell county, Iowa, and after looking over the country finally located on section 17. He selected a quarter of the same section for his brother, Elisha, who arrived the same month and settled, remaining a couple of years and then moved away. Joseph Marvin and his son-in-law, Daniel R. Young, natives of Massachusetts, arrived on the 10th day of July, 1856, and selected claims. At about the same time, came Aszel Young, Uriah Grover, Henry Cottrell, Henry Thurston, Henry Lacy, John Corning, and Robert Budlong, who all secured homes. On July 11, 1856, A. H. Bartlett made his appearance, and the village of Shell Rock, through his energy and capable management, sprung into existence. He became one of the prominent public men of Freeborn county. E. P. Skinner and Mr. Beattie arrived in early days, and taking a good deal of land, commenced speculating and continued for many years.

In 1857, A. M. Burnham arrived and he erected the first bridge across the Shell Rock river. With him came a number from Albert Lea. Willard F. Marvin also came during this year. The population grew very rapidly and the country settled with a good class of inhabitants. An idea of the ingress can be formed from the fact that in 1857, 100 votes were cast at the general election. Geo. Hyatt came this year also.

Other settlers who were associated with the early history of the township were: D. S. Hoyt and Morris Marshall, who came in 1862; O. C. C. Howe, came in 1864; John E. Skinner, in 1865; Peter J. Miller, in 1866; V. Gillrup, in 1867; W. H. Rathnell, in 1871; James Abbott, in 1872; Alonzo Alford, in 1876; T. A. Clow, in 1877, and Rev. Daniel H. Palmer in 1860.

**Early Events.** Early in the spring of 1854, the first child born in the county was a daughter to Ole Colbjornson Livdalen. Another early birth was that of Susan, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. William Beighley, April 13, 1857.

A girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Luff, who lived in the village of Shell Rock, in the spring of 1857. They kept a tavern. In November, 1855, Willie Andrews, son of Oliver and Mary Andrews, who the July previous had located in the township of Hayward, was born, being the second white child, and the first male born in Freeborn county. The first marriage in the county took place here early in 1857 or late in the year previous, being that of Hannibal Bickford and Maria Colby. The ceremony was



performed by William Andrews, Esquire. December 21, 1858, Mrs. Fannie Andrews, wife of William Andrews, died and was buried in Greenwood cemetery. William Rice, one of the first settlers in the township, died early in December, 1856, from the results of an exposure in a blizzard. Byron Packard and Charles Walker died about December 20 of the same year, having been frozen while making a trip to Shell Rock city.

Shell Rock occupies a high post of honor in many of the events of our early settlement. One of the first Commissioners, Wm. Andrews, was appointed from this town, and he became the first chairman of the County Board. It was here that the first school-house was erected, June, 1857, in the district now known as 49. The building was a frame, also the first of the kind put up. Here the first patriotic demonstration was made, as early as 1857, and we may add, that here also, the first suit was tried, being a case of one Boulton against C. T. Knapp, before Justice Andrews, in the spring of 1857, in which A. H. Bartlett appeared as attorney for both parties. As already noticed, Shell Rock was the scene of the first election, November 4, 1856, when the whole county constituted but one precinct, and forty-four votes indicated nearly the total strength of our adult male population.

**Township Organization.** The township was organized May 11, 1858, and the first officers elected were William Andrews, C. S. Tarbell and Henry Thurston.

**Cemeteries.** **Hoyt Will Cemetery** is situated upon a high rise of land in the northeastern part of section 24, containing something less than one acre, which was laid out in 1872. The first burial here occurred in 1867 and was that of Daniel S. Hoyt, who donated the land for the cemetery. **Dane Cemetery** is located in the southeastern corner of section 12, having been laid out in 1878, and the same year the remains of Mrs. Mary Nelson were deposited here, making the first interment. **Greenwood Cemetery** is located in section 5, township 101, range 20. The first trustees were A. G. Morgan, Ed. Erickson and Jay Bartlett. It was surveyed by Frank H. Fisk. It was filed for record December 8, 1910.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### FREEBORN COUNTY CHURCHES.

Pioneers in Faith Who First Held Services in This County—  
Story of the Leading Churches of the Townships and Villages  
—Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod—United Lutheran  
—Danish Lutheran—German Lutheran—Swedish Lutheran—  
Danish Baptist—Methodist Episcopal—German Methodist—  
Free Methodist—United Brethren—Presbyterian—Congrega-  
tional—Roman Catholic—Adventists—Early Services.

The religious history of Freeborn county begins with Rev. Sylvester N. Phelps, who, as early as 1856, preached in Moscow township, and a year later in Albert Lea. Rev. Phelps was a Methodist. Rev. Isaac W. McReynolds settled in Albert Lea township in 1856 and did considerable preaching. The Lowrys, father and son, Theop. and S. G., located in Moscow at an early day and, being clergymen of the Presbyterian faith, preached in various places for the earliest pioneers. The Rev. Stephen Cook, a Congregationalist, living in Austin, also preached in Freeborn county in pioneer times. Catholic priests, from missions at Faribault, St. Mary's, Winona and other places, occasionally preached in Newry, even before the war. Rev. C. L. Clausen and other Lutheran ministers, also served the people of the Scandinavian persuasion almost from the very first settlement. Rev. Walter Stott, a Methodist clergyman, settled near, in the vicinity of Glenville, in 1856, and was one of the first three assessors in Freeborn county. As he was not a member of the conference he was unable to perform marriages.

It has been the desire of the managers of this publication to secure a complete history of every congregation in the country, and to this end hundreds of letters have been addressed to pastors and church members. The congregations not represented here are those whose officials have failed to furnish the information asked for. The Albert Lea churches appear in a separate chapter.

### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN.

**The Freeborn Congregations,** Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod. The Freeborn congregation is, so to speak, the mother of eleven or twelve Lutheran churches now in Freeborn county,





MR. AND MRS. ISAAC W. McREYNOLDS





namely: Moscow, Oakland, Trondhjem and Hayward, Rev. O. Amdalsrud, pastor; Round Prairie and Lunder, Rev. O. A. Sauer, pastor; Albert Lea, Rev. O. H. Smeby, pastor; the West or Manchester and Hartland, Rev. T. J. Strand, pastor, and the East and Central, or Bancroft and North or Bath churches, Rev. H. J. Strand, pastor.

The congregation was organized in 1861 with Rev. C. L. Clausen, its first pastor, he serving until 1865, with the exception of the time he served as chaplain in the Civil War. However, even before 1861 the Right Rev. H. A. Preus and the Right Rev. V. Koren made mission trips in and around Freeborn county; the father of the writer having the honor of at one time taking Rev. Koren to Red Oak Grove, in Mower county, with an ox team, coming from his home in Hayward, seven miles, to Albert Lea, and then on to Red Oak Grove, twenty-three miles. It was in the winter time and the sleigh used was what we called a "long sled," made of wood—not a bolt in it and no steel or iron shoes on the runners—every part of it was wood.

From 1865 to 1868 the Right Rev. T. A. Torgerson had charge of the congregation. After him the now deceased Rev. E. Wulfsberg, a veteran of the Civil War, accepted the call tendered him and remained its pastor for fifteen years. In 1883 he was called to Decorah, Iowa, and moved, with his family, from the state. The congregation mourned his loss, and it was said that when he preached his farewell sermon there were tears in everybody's eyes. He was an exceptional man, an eloquent speaker, a great worker, a man that could make peace and cement together difficulties that came up or might creep into the congregation. In his time a parsonage was built and four nice new churches. Rev. O. H. Smeby assisted him for two years, he (Rev. Smeby) receiving a call to Albert Lea in 1876, with Hayward and Oakland annexed. Four years later, namely, 1880, Johan Thorbjorn Ylvisaker was called, he assisting Rev. Wulfsberg three years, and in turn undertaking the call in 1883 as pastor-in-chief. In 1886 Rev. L. P. Jensen was called to assist Rev. Ylvisaker, and after serving as such for three years, Rev. J. Th. Ylvisaker was called, in 1889, to Decorah, Iowa, and accepted the call. At that time the congregation was divided, Rev. L. P. Jensen taking the West, or Manchester and Hartland churches, while the other three, namely, East Bancroft and Central Bancroft and the North or Bath, extended a call to H. J. Strand, the present incumbent, and he has ably and faithfully served the congregation for twenty-two years. He has helped to make Luther Academy what it is, a success, and in many ways helped his people, both morally and spiritually.

The first two churches built were of logs. East Bancroft was



octagonal and fair-sized. The one in Manchester township was a four-walled log church and rather small.

Rev. Strand is entitled to a rest of at least one year, and I hope the congregation will soon favor him in some such way.—  
By Vegger Gulbrandson.

Those who assisted in the organization of the Central Freeborn congregation were Mr. and Mrs. G. Nornes, Mrs. Anna Opsahl, Mr. and Mrs. Elend Erikson, John Pederson, Tosten Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Iver Sorlien, Mrs. M. Nilson, O. Moen, T. Moen, Mrs. Helgen (Johnson), Mrs. G. Bottolson, Mrs. Irvine Bottolson, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gjellum, Mrs. P. Skophammer, Mrs. Anna Talle, Mr. and Mrs. B. Aslesen, H. Kristofferson, Vetler Selstad, Rolf Tykeson, K. Haugen, O. Narveson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Narveson, Mrs. O. Monson, John O. Johnson and A. Johnson.

The church was started in 1867 and completed the following year. The parsonage was completed shortly afterward. A new parsonage was erected in 1897. The East Freeborn congregation was organized in 1863 and the old octagon church built in 1868. The West Freeborn congregation was organized in 1867 and the present church erected in 1876. The North Freeborn congregation was organized in 1873 and the church erected in 1876. The Albert Lea congregation was organized as a separate unit in 1876. The Oakland congregation was organized about 1880 and a church erected the same year. These churches all have cemeteries in connection with their houses of worship.

**West Freeborn Congregation** (Manchester), Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod. This congregation was organized about 1867. In 1876 the church was erected in section 4, Gust. Peterson donating two acres of land for a site. It cost about \$5,700 and is 36x82 feet, with a tower, in which an 800-pound bell has been placed, which cost \$300. There is also a neat burial ground adjoining the church, which was laid out in 1872. In 1873 the first burial here was the remains of an infant child of Andrew Madson and wife. The first matured person whose remains were deposited here was Cornelius Gilbertson, who died at Freeborn at the age of twenty-four.

**Hartland Congregation**, Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod. This congregation was organized and had a church and cemetery on the Louis Knutson farm before the village was thought of. After the village was started it was found a building in Hartland would be more convenient and in 1890 a movement was started for its erection. Rev. L. P. Jensen was pastor at that time and services were held in a rented building until the church edifice was finished. The cornerstone was laid in 1891 and the building dedicated the same year. The cost of the church was \$2,306.24, there being at that time sixty heads of families in the



membership who contributed to the building fund, and donations from others outside the congregation were accepted.

The directors of the first organization in the village were: Bartil Nelson, John Hatle and Louis Knutson; Haivor Siblingrud, treasurer; J. C. Syblierud, secretary. Until 1889 the church was supplied by the pastors of the Freeborn congregations. In that year Rev. L. P. Jensen was called to the pastorate of the congregations at Hartland and Manchester. In 1892 Rev. J. J. Strand, who had assisted Rev. Jensen during the summer vacations, was called as pastor. Shortly after his arrival a large, comfortable parsonage was built and occupied by him during the remainder of his sixteen years of faithful and successful work. Rev. H. J. Strand is the present pastor.

**Round Prairie and Lunder Congregations**, Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod, had their beginning at a very early day, when the Rev. C. L. Clausen, that venerable pioneer of Lutheran Christianity in this locality, visited the Norwegian families in this vicinity and held services. About 1865 the Round Prairie congregation was organized, the pastor being Rev. T. A. Torgerson, who served a number of congregations. The Round Prairie church was erected in the northeastern part of section 27, Freeman township, in 1874. It was wrecked by a storm in 1880 and rebuilt the same year. Among the early pastors were Rev. J. Mosby and Rev. S. B. Hustuet. In December, 1905, a part of the Round Prairie congregation decided that it would be more convenient for them to worship in their own locality. Accordingly the Lunder congregation was organized. A church building was erected the following year and dedicated September 30, 1906, its location being in section 6, Freeman township. The two congregations own a parsonage jointly at Glenville, and have the usual church societies, as well as a joint parochial school. The pastor of the congregations, the Rev. O. A. Sauer, is an active worker, a man of good scholarship and devout faith, and his work is doing much to assist the progress of the Lutheran faith. The information regarding these congregations has been furnished by Nels H. Hoyne.

**The Hayward Congregation**, which though not belonging to any synod, has always been served by ministers of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Synod, had its beginning at a very early day, with meetings held in schoolhouses and at homes. The first regular pastor was the Rev. Einer Wulfsburg, although missionaries had preached here earlier than that. Among the pioneers of the church may be mentioned: Ingebrit Knatvold, Endre Gulbrandson, Nels Peterson Olstad, Peter Lunde, Mathias Christopherson, Ole Anderson, Hans F. Olson, Hans Bjornrud, Lars Lunde, John Dahlen, Ole Ofstehage, M. P. Hansen, C. J. Olson, A.



Sanderson, Soren Sorenson Lah, Nels Larson, Lars Hanson, A. P. Hanson, Oliver Nelson and others. The first church building was erected in the summer of 1886 and was remodeled in 1899. The remodeled church was dedicated in June, 1900. Rev. O. H. Smeby was pastor from 1876 until 1894. From 1891 to 1894 he was assisted by Rev. Hans Magelssen. Rev. T. O. Tolo was pastor from 1894 to 1899. Rev. E. Skabo was pastor from 1899 to 1905 and at his death in the latter year was interred in Hayward cemetery, where the congregations in his charge have erected a beautiful monument over his remains. Rev. Skabo spent one year in Europe, 1902-03, and Rev. C. F. Magelssen was here during his absence. In the winter of 1905, when Rev. Skabo's health failed, Rev. O. Amdalsrud came to temporarily fill his place, and later, when Rev. Skabo died, Rev. Amdalsrud was called and has for some time been the pastor. He is an active worker, a man of excellent scholarship and sound theology, and has greatly endeared himself to the people among whom he serves. In connection with the church there are a flourishing Ladies' Aid Society and a Young People's Society, as well as a Young Ladies' Society. The Hayward parsonage is situated a little south of the church. It was built in 1895 and is a fine, large house, with a good orchard and plenty of garden room. Thomas Armstrong donated the lot for a church. In 1876 a cemetery lot was secured about a quarter of a mile from the church.

**Red Oak Grove Congregation**, Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The first services held in Newry township of a religious character were in the fall of 1856, at the house of Ole Thorson, in section 36, and Rev. C. L. Clauson and Rev. O. Pierce were the ministers who officiated, both being followers of the Lutheran faith. In 1857 C. L. Clauson organized the Norwegian Lutheran Church at a house in section 36, owned by C. E. Rukke, with thirty-six members, and the society commenced holding services at private residences, which they continued until 1874, when they erected a fine church building just over the county line in Mower county.

### UNITED BRETHREN CHURCHES.

**Trinity Congregation**, United Norwegian Evangelical Church, was first organized in Hartland township, December 23, 1876, with Rev. P. G. Ostby as pastor. The trustees and officers at that time were Jens Thoreson, Lars Seberson, Martin Christopherson, Andrew Rogn, secretary. Meetings were held in a school house. The first services were held in the village of Hartland, September 2, 1890, in the small church building which has served as a meeting place for various denominations during its existence. Rev. A.







REV. PAUL G. OSTBY



Anderson was pastor at that time. Rev. G. O. Belsheim was the next minister called, and it was during his pastorate, in 1899, that the plans were made for the congregation to build a church edifice of its own and the building was erected that year. The building has two rooms, a lecture room, divided into two compartments, besides the main audience room. Rev. Naes succeeded Rev. Belsheim as pastor and remained until he was called to Austin, and the present pastor is the Rev. Nils Kleven, who resides at Albert Lea. The local congregation is joined with Albert Lea in securing a minister, the latter town being the residence of the pastor, who comes here once a month, holding Norwegian services in the morning and English services in the evening. Connected with the church is a live Ladies' Aid Society, a Luther League and a Sunday School, the latter convening every Sunday.

**Lime Creek, Emmons and Bethel Congregations,** United Norwegian Evangelical Church. The Lime Creek congregation had its beginning in 1859, when Rev. C. L. Clausen, then residing in St. Ansgar, Iowa, preached in this neighborhood and served until this and other congregations in the vicinity called Rev. T. A. Torgerson as their minister. But after several years, in 1869, this congregation became divided because Rev. Torgerson was a pro-slaveryman, and the majority in the congregations were to the contrary. There were held several meetings concerning that question, but it ended as above stated, and the anti-slavery congregations separated from Rev. Torgerson and the Norwegian Synod, to which church body they had belonged. Then these congregations called to their ministry B. Gjildaker, candidate from the University of Christiana, Norway. He accepted the call, came over here and commenced his ministerial work in 1870. He served this congregation until the close of 1876, when he moved to Minneapolis as theological professor at Augsburg Seminary. When Rev. Gjildaker resigned from his congregations they were divided into three parishes, one of which consisted of the Lime Creek and Lake Mills congregations, who, in 1877, called Rev. P. G. Ostby, residing in Austin, Minn., to their pastorate. He accepted the call and commenced his ministerial duties here with the beginning of the year 1878. He is serving the congregations yet, although he at this writing is seventy-five years old. The Lime Creek congregation has a roomy and nice church building (erected in 1874, but not completed and dedicated until 1886), and a church yard surrounding the church. In this long period of nearly thirty-four years the congregation has enjoyed a steady material and spiritual growth. It has surprised the minister with several valuable gifts and has been actively partaking in the work of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church (with which it



has been connected since the organization of that body in 1890) and in many other undertakings.

In 1893 Lake Mills congregation separated from the parish and secured a minister for itself. In 1902 a good many families resigned from the Lime Creek congregation, with all friendliness, for the sake of convenience, and were organized as a separate congregation, with the name of Emmons Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, with the special resolution that it should be connected with Lime Creek Congregation so far as to have the same minister. This congregation has steadily been increasing. It built and dedicated a nice church March 21, 1903, in the little town of Emmons, and it secured from Lime Creek Congregation a cemetery conspicuously located on a plateau one-half mile west from the village. The village of Emmons has now for years voted out the saloon and the members of the congregation have chiefly sustained that good result. Even before Rev. P. G. Ostby came to this place there were held by the former minister some divine services about nine miles southwest from Lime Creek church, amongst the few farmers there. Rev. Ostby continued the work, and about a year after his arrival here he organized a congregation there, with the name of Bethel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. It was very small, beginning with only seven or eight families, but it has increased so that it now consists of about fifty families. The minister's work is divided equally between the three congregations. He has much to do: divine services twice every Sunday and holiday, with baptism of the infants and distribution of the Holy Supper. He is reading with the confirmants nearly once a week in each congregation, visiting sick persons, officiating at weddings and burials and partaking in the work of the Ladies' Aid Societies. He is also partaking in the United Church's yearly meetings, of which he has missed but two in forty years, two district meetings a year and pastoral meetings once a year. So he has seldom a day to rest. In 1876 he made a journey to Norway (his native country) as delegate from the Norwegian Danish Conference to the general assembly of the Norwegian Mission Society, and that was the only vacation he has had in forty years. Emmons and Bethel congregations belong also to the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. This information has been furnished by the venerable and devout pastor.

#### DANISH LUTHERAN.

The Carlston and Alden Congregations, Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, had their beginning February 18, 1873, when the Carlston Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Free-



born county, Minnesota, was organized. The organizers were: Anders Petersen, L. C. Straudskov, H. P. Jensen, Morten Petersen, Anders Jacobsen, Lars Nielsen, Hans Paulsen, L. P. Mathiasen, J. C. Rasmussen and Jacob Paulsen. The meeting was held at the residence of Lars Straudskov, section 28, Carlston township. The pastor engaged was Rev. E. Wulfsberg, of the Freeborn Congregations, Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The pastors of the church have been as follows: February 23, 1873 to April 25, 1876, E. Wulfsberg; August, 1876, to December, 1879, J. J. Danielsen; December, 1879 to 1884, F. M. Christensen; 1885-1889, J. N. Jersild; June 1, 1889, to 1891, J. Jensen (Mylun); 1891-1893, Klemmen Jensen; 1893-1899, P. Kolhede; 1900-1904, J. Jorgensen; 1905-1907, C. Schousboe Jensen; 1908 to the present time, Rev. Ole Gregersen.

January 20, 1883, the congregation voted to erect a church edifice. At that time the fund consisted of \$121. It was increased by \$1,806, thus making a total of \$1,927. The contract was let to J. Andersen, of Spring Valley, at \$1,800. The dedication, September 2, 1883, was an important day in the history of the congregation. Pastor Lyngby, of Racine, preached the dedicatory sermon, J. Jensen took charge of the social features, and F. M. Christensen preached an excellent sermon. A silver communion service was received as a gift from a congregation in Denmark. This church was erected in section 22, Carlston township. In 1886 a home was erected in Carlston township for the pastor at a cost of \$700. In 1903 a fine hall for meeting and social purposes was erected near the church. In 1906 a church was erected in Alden village, both edifices now being owned and used by the joint congregation. In 1908 the congregation sold their parsonage in the country and purchased one in the village.

For about twenty-five years the congregation has had a flourishing Ladies' Aid Society. A school is kept for the children of the congregation in the summer time. A Young People's Society has a good membership, and the Sunday School is well attended. A cemetery is located about the church. The first burial was that of Hans Paulson in 1874.

When the church was organized the pastor was the president of the congregation. Later members of the congregation were elected to the position. The laymen who have served are: J. J. Howe, N. P. Barner, Andrew Johnson, L. P. Jacobsen, L. P. Skov and H. L. Johnson. Mr. Skov, who has furnished this article, is an active worker in the church and has done much to promote its progress.

**Rev. Ole Gregersen**, pastor of the Danish Lutheran churches of Carlston and Alden, was born in Denmark, November 29, 1859. He received a common and high school education, taught school



and served in the standing army in his native country. In 1889 he came to America and studied at the Danish Lutheran Theological Seminary, then at West Denmark, Wis. In 1893 he started his ministry and served in Ohio, Connecticut, Kansas and Michigan before coming to Carlston and Alden in 1908.

**St. John's Skandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation** of the United Danish Lutheran Church was organized in January, 1878, at the home of Nels Sorensen, section 1, Shell Rock township. The Rev. Tosdahl was the first pastor, coming from Silver Lake, Iowa. Until 1894 services were held in various homes, and also in the Barron school, district 100, and Burr Oak school, district 71. In 1894 a building was erected in section 12, Shell Rock, half a mile south of Myrtle. Later a shed was erected for the accommodation of horses. In July, 1894, the church was dedicated. Among the pastors may be mentioned: L. Johnsen, 1892-1897; C. Nielsen, 1897 to 1899; J. J. Kildsig, 1899-1902; H. O. Frimodt Moller, 1902-1904; O. R. Olsen from 1904 to the present time. The organizers of the congregation in 1878 were N. Sorensen, J. P. Sorensen, Nels Andersen, H. Petersen, Andrew Hansen, C. Hansen, H. C. Larsen, Conrad Nelsen, J. Jorgensen, Christian Jensen and their families. Among the present members may be mentioned: H. P. Hansen, Andrew Hansen, Nels Andersen, Christian Jensen and Peter Nelsen. The above information has been gathered by C. Jensen, one of the active workers in the congregation.

**Riceland Congregation**, of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized in 1880 and built an edifice two years later. Soren Anderson is the leading trustee. Among the pastors have been Christ Jansen, P. Nelsen, L. Johnsen, J. Kildsig, M. V. C. Nelsen, H. O. F. Moller and O. R. Olsen, the present pastor. The above information is furnished by M. P. Paulson.

**Godthaab Congregation**, of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized November 10, 1909, by Rev. M. O. Block, of Ellendale, who is still serving. The congregation worships in the Union church at Geneva village. The pastor also serves at Summit and Blooming Prairie, as well as at Geneva. The congregation has a Ladies' Aid Society, which is doing excellent work. The officers of the congregation are: R. Olsen, Julius Jensen, George Olsen, Chr. Thompsen, Chr. Holm, M. Mortensen, H. Larsen, L. Larsen and Carl Nelson.

### GERMAN LUTHERAN.

**Bethlehem Congregation of Shell Rock and London**, German Evangelical Church. In the year of 1872 a German settlement was started in the towns of Shell Rock and London. The first



pioneers came from Watertown, Wis., and vicinity and from Germany and Poland. Among them were: C. Struck, C. Grube, F. Grube, W. Wolff, John Wolff, C. Lau; and a little later C. Schilling, G. Tessmann, P. Will, W. and F. Lau, F. Seeger, C. Waldow; A. Stiemke, John and W. Butow. At the same time the mission work began and Rev. G. Landgrebe preached in four different public school houses till 1882. In that year a congregation was organized and incorporated by the name of the Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Congregation in towns of Shell Rock and London, and the following officers were elected. Wilhelm Wolff, August Stiemke and G. Tessmann. A small building, 16x24, was erected as a church and parsonage combined. The first settled pastor was Rev. C. Weltner. The congregation is connected with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other states and belongs to the Minnesota Conference in the northern district of that synod. In the year 1890 a church 36x56 was built, with a tower seventy-five feet high, and at the same time the parsonage was rebuilt and dedicated. Rev. L. Hagermann was the second pastor, for the years 1884 to 1891. His successor was Rev. D. Lebahn till the year of 1897. At that time the congregation built a new school house 24x36 and bought seven acres of land. Since 1897 till the present time, the year of 1911, Rev. Martin Vosseler has been pastor of the congregation. During his administration a new altar, a 1,300-pound bell and a \$1,300 pipe organ completed the sanctuary. The parsonage was also enlarged and renovated at a cost of \$1,100. In the year of 1911 the community amounted to as follows: 575 souls, 75 voting members or families, 341 communicants, 60 scholars. The property is worth about \$9,000. The officers at present, 1911, are as follows: Chairman, Rev. Martin Vosseler, pastor; secretary, John Butow; cashier, John Golnick; committee, Albert Schuhmacher and Otto Buth; trustees, Herman Schuhmacher, Fred Wahlers and Carl Virchow. —Contributed by the pastor.

**Concordia Congregations of Nunda and Pickerel Lake**, German Evangelical Lutheran Church, is connected with the northern district of the Synod of Iowa and other states. The first meetings were held in private homes and public school houses, in the late fifties and early sixties, by field missionaries. Rev. J. Schorr, missionary for northern Iowa, residing at Prairie du Chien, Iowa, was the first Lutheran minister visiting Lutherans in Freeborn county. After him Rev. Michael Reck became field missionary (Reiseprediger) for southern Minnesota, residing at Spring Valley, and he became the first regular pastor of the German Lutherans of Freeborn county. He was the organizer of the congregation then located in the townships of Nunda, Pickerel Lake and Mansfield, preaching and keeping parochial schools in the three



respective settlements, besides doing missionary work, mostly afoot, in the counties of Mower, Freeborn, Faribault and Martin. The first members of the congregation were: J. V. Wohllhuter, George L. Scherb, George Renn, H. Drommerhausen, J. M. Geisler, Louis and William Marpe, Henry and Karl Schneider, Fred Fink, Chr. Boehle, Karl Kaufman, John and Henry Tunell, H. Jahnke, J. Seedorf, Ernst and Aug. Hintz, J. Wachholz, Valentin Katzung and William Yost. Rev. M. Reck had free board in different families of his congregation and a salary not exceeding \$200. His successor became Rev. S. Hertrich. For him the members erected the first parsonage, in North Nunda, now Clover, a building 16 by 20-inch 12-foot posts. He was succeeded by Rev. H. Kretschman in 1874. In 1875, by his leaving the Iowa synod, he split the congregation. After an addition was built to the parsonage, the same was sold for debts, and the pastor moving on his farm, kept a number of the members in Pickerel Lake as a separate congregation, existing yet. A small part of the Pickerel Lake members and the majority of the members of the settlements in Nunda and Mansfield, opposed to the doings of the pastor, H. Kretschman, and advised by the theological student, Julius Keuling, those opposing members notified the president of synod of the situation. Then the young Rev. Ferdinand Tiede was sent here. He arrived September 10, 1875, reorganizing the three settlements into one congregation again. The parsonage which had been sold and six acres of land was repurchased. In 1881 the first church building was erected, 28x40, costing \$2,500, with sixteen members. The parsonage was enlarged at different times. Rev. F. Tiede served the congregation until May, 1911, nearly thirty-six years. Then Mansfield became independent, keeping the old minister. Rev. C. Eckhoff, of Spring Valley, became his successor. Rev. F. Tiede, in those years, was doing missionary work besides at Delavan, Rice Lake (Walters), Alden and Albert Lea, organizing congregations at these places. A church building was erected in Mansfield in 1888, at Rice Lake in 1890, and also school houses at Clover and Mansfield, the total valuation of church property being about \$25,000.

**Rev. F. Tiede** was born at Raddenfort, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, where his father was a schoolmaster for fifty years. He received his education at home and at the gymnasium at Ludwigs-lust, and in a teachers' seminary at Lubtheen, in Germany. In 1872 he emigrated and arrived at New York November 2, 1872. He entered the theological seminary at St. Sebald, Clayton county, Iowa, and at Mendota, Ill., for three years. At the age of twenty years he passed the ministerial examination, with good marks, in June, 1875. He became a vicar for four weeks of Rev. J. Foelsch at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where he was ordained by said



Foelsch and Rev. G. Blessin. May 14, 1878, he married Wilhelmina Kunder, of Troy Grove, Ill. His sons, William and Franz, are ministers at Pocahontas and Maynard, Iowa; Frederick is farming in the township of Alden, Johannes died when two years of age; the daughter, Frieda, is married to Rev. R. C. Ackermann, of Superior, Wis.; Minnie is at home.

### SWEDISH LUTHERAN.

**The Mansfield Congregation** of the Augustana Synod, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized by Rev. S. Anderson in 1893, the first meetings being held and the organization perfected at the home of Nels Johnson. Meetings the first year were also held in other homes and in the school house of district 121. In 1894 the congregation was incorporated and a church was built in the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20. The congregation belongs to the St. Peter district, and in the early days, before a regular pastor was installed, meetings were held about once a month by pastors belonging to that district. In the winter of 1896 this congregation joined with the congregation near Otisco, Minn., in calling a pastor. Rev. H. P. Quist served from 1896 to 1902. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1903, with Rev. E. O. Peterson as pastor. He served until 1905. Rev. John E. Hedberg served from 1906 to September, 1911, when the present pastor, Rev. C. J. Rosenquist, took charge. The pastors make their home in Otisco, Minn. This information is furnished by Ole S. Nelson.

### DANISH BAPTIST.

**First Danish Baptist Church of Clarks Grove.** In 1861 a small colony of Danish Baptists in Wisconsin decided to push further west to establish for themselves a home in a new country. This colony of people had but a few years previous to this time come to America from Denmark and settled in Raymond, Wis., where they were not at all content. Confiding their wishes and plans to Rev. L. Jorgenson, they soon found that he was in hearty sympathy with them, and accordingly preparations were made for the journey. Two years elapsed before the party set out and the trip was made in a lumber wagon, drawn by a team of oxen, and the party numbered six. After a long and exceedingly tiresome journey this company reached Freeborn county, having covered a distance of about 120 miles west from LaCrosse. Their plans were to go even farther west to secure government land, but owing to fear of Indians and the fatigue occasioned by the long trip to this county, they abandoned these plans. Near the places



selected for their homes they found people of their own nationality, who but a short time ago had come there, and this helped them to feel more contented with their new surroundings, and particularly as these people were of their own faith. That fall two more families came from Raymond, and in the party was a minister, N. Christianson, who but a short time previous had come to this country from Denmark, and he was chosen by this small colony of Danish people to preside over their Sunday services. October 11, 1863, the first meeting of this colony was held in the log house of one of the families, and that day a church consisting of fifteen members was organized. This meeting was held at the home of N. Larson, who has long since entered into rest, leaving a widow who still lives at an advanced age. The next summer other families came from Wisconsin, and the church soon grew to be a prosperous organization. In the fall of 1864 J. Henrikson, a minister, came to join this community of sturdy Danes, and on August 4 a Sunday school was organized, which was conducted in the English language, and Hans Rasmussen was elected superintendent. In 1886 J. S. Lunn and L. P. Lawson were chosen as teachers in this Sunday school, and that same year the congregation built a small chapel of logs, with dimensions of 16 by 25 feet. At that time the membership of this church had increased to sixty members, which gained forty-two members during the following five years. In 1871, Rev. Henderson was chosen pastor, and he occupied this position until 1876, when he resigned and went back to Wisconsin in response to a call from a church at that place. A new building was erected in 1873 by the congregation about a mile and half south of the first church, on the lot where the present edifice stands. This building was considered a very fine piece of architecture at that time and meetings were held every Sabbath, and during the week, the congregation driving long distances to be present at these meetings. After the resignation of Rev. Hendrikson, Rev. J. S. Lunn was chosen to preside over the congregation, which had increased in three years' time to the extent that the new building was altogether too small. In 1884 this church was enlarged to twice its former size, and that same year the pastor, J. S. Lunn, resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. A. Carstenson, who occupied the pulpit until 1889, and resigned to accept a call from a church in Brown county. The membership of this Baptist church had now grown to the number of 267, and for about three years after Pastor Carstenson left Rev. James Lawson presided over the congregation. In 1892 Rev. Iver Larson was elected to the pulpit and began his services on December 1, that year. At that time the membership of the Sunday school was from ninety to 100, with about eight or ten teachers. In 1895 it was found that the church was too small to



accommodate its ever increasing number of members, and it was subsequently torn down and the reserent edifice erected in its place. This building is located in Bath township, a short distance more than a mile from the Clarks Grove station, and its dimensions are 38 by 65 feet, 22 feet high, with a gallery of 16 by 38 feet, and an addition has been made of 14 by 28 feet, and the tower is 75 feet in height. Each Sunday morning during the year a large and devout congregation assembles in this house of worship at 11 o'clock, the morning services lasting until 12:30 o'clock, after which the Sunday school holds its session. During the summer services are held in the evenings. Before this building was completed the members of its congregation met for nine consecutive Sundays in the woods north of Geneva village and Sunday school was also held there, with an average attendance of 132 scholars. A Ladies' Mission Circle was organized in 1875, which has done excellent work, having raised hundreds of dollars for the cause. This circle meets quarterly. Some years after the organizing of the circle, a Ladies' Aid Society was formed, which meets each month, and has a large membership of earnest and conscientious workers. There is another organization of the ladies of this church, known as the Farther Lights, which is made up of the younger members and which meets monthly and raises money for mission purposes. The young girls of the church have formed a Mission Band, which is carrying on good work. According to reports and records, there have been received into this church since its organization 650 members by baptism, together with many who have brought letters from other churches. Many years ago a party of members left their home in this county and went to Kingsbury county, South Dakota, where they settled down and founded a church, known as the Baptist Church of Oldham, and some time after the departure of the first company, another band of earnest men and women went to Martin county, this state. Here they organized a church of their faith. Since the year of 1871 there have been but four pastors in this church in Bath township aside from its present pastor, Rev. Henningson, and the attendance has steadily increased each year. The church has for many years raised an average annual sum of \$4,000 to meet the needs of various branches of the work. The present membership numbers 346, and 250 pupils are enrolled in the Sunday school, with a yearly average attendance of 165. The following article is taken from a paper printed in 1895: "This church may well be called the Mother of Churches, for out of its membership have come churches at Albert Lea, Alden, Blooming Prairie, West Brook, one in South Dakota and two in North Dakota. The late Prof. N. P. Jensen was a member of this church, and many other brethren have gone from its number into the ministry. The



Sunday school is large and prosperous under the efficient leadership of L. P. Lawson, who has been superintendent for thirty years. Many young people gather at the services, and there are prospects of growth through the coming years. It is interesting on Sundays to see the many teams, coming from all directions, and the churchyard looks like some hostelry in country towns on a circus day." The present officers are: Pastor, Rev. C. H. Henningson; secretary, Soren Jacobson, and treasurer, J. P. Larson. Soren Jacobson, the secretary, is the author of this article.

**The Danish Baptist Church**, of Alden, was organized November 22, 1885, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Sorenson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Nelsen, Mrs. Lena Johnson and C. A. Nelson. The first pastor was Rev. A. Carlson, of Clarks Grove. Other pastors have been: J. C. Johnsen, M. C. Jensen, C. G. Christiansen, N. L. Christiansen, A. S. Andersen and J. D. Vinding, the present pastor.

### METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

**The First Methodist Episcopal Church**, of Freeborn, had its beginning in 1859, when a class was started. The formal organization was perfected in 1862 at P. F. Austin's hotel by Joshua Barnard. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse until 1878, when, through the efforts of Rev. S. B. Smith, a church building was erected, the edifice being dedicated the same year. In 1898 additions were built to it on the north and south sides. A parsonage was built soon after the church was organized and was occupied by the pastors until 1883, when Alden was put in the circuit. As Alden was a railroad town, the pastor then moved to Alden, and the parsonage has since been located in that place. Following are the pastors who have served the church: Joshua Barnard, Revs. Perkins, Fuller, Stokes, Matteson, Brown, Riddick, Terwillegar, Blaine, Smith, Followsbée, Chester, Copp, Buttleman, Jenkins, Brown, Arnold, Parr, Thompson, McCausland, Wilkinson, Russell, Haley, Hotchkiss and W. I. Moore. Among those who have taken an active part in the progress of the church may be mentioned: Simeon Jones, S. J. Fuller, C. H. Derby, L. T. Scott, George P. Lattin, W. A. Brooks, G. R. Borland, L. C. Taylor, J. B. Purdie, T. W. Purdie, O. S. Gilmore, R. E. Goward and N. R. Brooks.

**The Geneva Methodist Episcopal Church.** The first religious services in the village of Geneva were held at the store of Loyhed & Matison in 1857 by a Methodist clergyman. Soon afterward a class was organized. At an early day the Baptists also held meetings at the home of Deacon Brant, with Elder Towne in



charge, but most of the attendants afterward joined the Methodists. The earliest records of the Methodist Church have not been preserved, but a class book of 1861 shows the following members: H. Fredenburg (leader), A. Fredenburg, Charles McIntire, Ann McIntire, ——— Brooks, J. A. Woodworth, E. Eustrom, Edward Lugg, J. M. Hovey, H. W. Ruliffson, Mary Ruliffson, Robert Lathim, Mary A. Lathim, J. Lathim, John Eikley, Oliver Jones, Sophia Jones. In 1865 and 1866, the following names were added to the list: M. Ainsworth (leader), A. Ainsworth, H. Patridge, L. Partridge, H. E. Lester, M. A. Holmes, A. B. Lester, C. Lester, S. Moon, M. Osborn, ——— Osborn, A. Osborn, Sarah Partridge, J. L. Cabot, Mary H. Cabot, Hattie Cabot, Franklin Warner, Juliette Warner, Dana P. Sawyer, Ira M. Sawyer, Dianna Sawyer, Elizabeth Skinner. Among the early pastors may be mentioned: Rev. Perkins, J. N. Liscomb, William Barkulo, Charles Barkuloo, J. M. Akers, R. B. Satterlee, W. S. Chase and Thomas Billings. Services were held for some years in the schoolhouse. In 1890 the present church building was erected, the trustees at that time being: Ira M. Sawyer, chairman; Ralph Randall, treasurer; F. G. Sloan, secretary; Charles Gahagan. The pastor at that time was D. W. Giberson, and Robert Forbes was the presiding elder. Since then the pastors have been: 1891, G. W. Plummer; 1892-1894, H. F. Ackerman; 1895-1899, Alfred Cressy; 1900-1901, W. J. Moore; September, 1902-1903, Frank Seeds; 1903-1904, S. W. Kemerer; 1905-1906, G. W. Koser; 1907-1909, J. J. Lutz; 1910, I. B. Holman; 1911, G. L. Day. The names of I. M. Sawyer and wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Ruliffson, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Warner, Dana P. Sawyer, Mrs. M. A. Holmes and Mrs. M. Osborn should be mentioned as active workers in the church in years gone past. Among those deeply interested in the church at the present time may be mentioned: Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Ferguson, E. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gay, and the Mesdames Alice Huggins, Isabella Huggins, Eugene Jones, Frank Jones, M. A. Holmes, Pickering, George Holmes and R. Gahagan. The information for this sketch has been furnished by F. G. Sloan.

**The Shell Rock Methodist Episcopal Church.** The first Methodist services held in Shell Rock took place during the summer of 1857, when the Rev. Sylvester N. Phelps preached at the home of Walter Stott. In 1858, Rev. Isaac McReynolds was influenced by Rev. T. M. Kirkpatrick, the presiding elder, to arrange for a circuit to be called the Shell Rock Circuit. This circuit included Geneva, Grass Lake, Albert Lea, Shell Rock, State Line and Northwood. Services were also held at Itasca. In the spring of 1858 the first quarterly conference was held at State Line. In 1873 the Methodist church at Shell Rock was erected, the trustees at that time being John Skinner, D. R. Young, J. D. Barren and



Williard Marvin. After Isaac W. McReynolds, L. M. Thomas had charge of the church. He was followed by Aaron Matteson and John Garner. In 1864 Shell Rock was transferred to the Owatonna district. Following him the pastors were: 1864-1865, D. B. Gleason; 1866-1869, George Elliott; 1869, R. J. Hays. In 1870 the charge was left to be supplied, and George Elliott again took charge. Rev. Gould preached in 1872-1873. George Stokes was pastor in 1873-1874. In 1875 came John Lamberson, who remained for two years. The minister in 1884 was W. A. Miles. In 1885 George Elliott again supplied. In 1886, E. W. Haley was preacher in charge, and the following year came J. M. Hammond, who stayed until 1890. In 1890 Rev. William H. McGann came as a supply. The latter half of the year the Rev. A. Cressy, of Albert Lea, was the supply. In 1891 Noah Lathrop was appointed to Glenville and Gordonsville. After he left there were various changes until the arrival of the present pastor, Rev. E. C. Reineke. The facts for this sketch have been furnished by Mrs. H. C. Cottrell.

#### **GERMAN METHODIST.**

**The Pickerel Lake German Methodist Episcopal Church** had its beginning at a very early day, meetings being held at the home of William Schneider as early as 1865. Meetings were also held in the schoolhouse of District 57. Among the early preachers at these meetings may be mentioned the Revs. Bucholts, Uhl and others. The first trustees of the church are said to have been: Claus Flindt, George Drommerhausen, William Schneider, William Weiser and Henry Eberhardt. In the spring of 1873 the society purchased twenty-two acres of land in section 23, Pickerel Lake township, and erected a church under the pastorate of Rev. Aug. Biebighauser. A cemetery was also laid out, the first to be buried being Fred Beherents, also known as Fritz Brantz, in the spring of 1874. The present trustees are George Drommerhausen, Claus Flindt, Edward H. Eberhardt, Charles Lenz and Dr. J. P. von Berg. Following is a list of the clergymen who have served the two congregations: William Hildebrand, 1869-70; J. Hansen, 1870-72; Aug. Biebighauser, 1872-74; A. H. Koerner, 1874-76; J. C. Jahn, 1876-79; C. Stellner, 1879-81; A. H. Koerner, 1881-83; Dan. Pfaff, 1883-85; John Hauck, 1885-89; Jacob Durbahn, 1889-94; Aug. Krienke, 1894-95; F. J. Preine, 1895-99; Fred Brinkman, 1889-1901; Hy. Clement, 1901-06; C. A. Borchard, 1906-10; William E. Baumgarten, 1910 to the present time.

#### **FREE METHODIST.**

**Glenville Free Methodist Church.** This church was organized in the winter of 1882-83 by a band of workers comprised of



Vivian A. Dralle, as leader, Mrs. V. A. Drake, H. J. Van Auken and wife, Henrietta E. Muzzy, Abbie Dunham, William Baldwin and J. L. Keene. The church building was erected in the summer of 1883, with H. J. Van Auken as first pastor. The charge has since been served by the following pastors: N. J. Sumner, Cyrus Cook, Frank Palmer, J. P. Maitland, J. L. Keene, Joseph Adams, John Moran, Albert Dubois, S. O. McElwain, Alice Van Auken, C. W. Damon, C. W. Sutton, A. G. Morgan, J. L. Kent, Blanche E. Smith and Homer Tanner, the latter being the present pastor. The first board of trustees consisted of C. T. Knapp, Philip Herman, James Casper, A. Alford and Charles Grimm. The present trustees are: M. N. Alm, Mrs. W. J. Landis and A. G. Morgan.

**Union Church.** This church, located in the village of Geneva, is now used by Lutheran and Danish Baptist congregations. It was erected by the Free Methodists. The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1869, and with the assistance of this society the church was organized, an edifice being erected in 1888, on lot 5, block 79, the land being presented by W. H. Twiford, M. D.

### UNITED BRETHREN.

**Glenville United Brethren Church.** The congregation at Glenville was organized and a church erected in 1879. The pastor at that time was Rev. U. A. Cook. The charter members were Joseph Page, Mrs. Jane Landis, Mrs. L. Woolery Shields, Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Klink, Mrs. Lucie McKibbins, Mrs. George Brown and others. The present board consists of J. R. Page, Mrs. William Page and O. D. Koontz. The Rev. O. D. Koontz is the present pastor.

**The London United Brethren Church** was erected in the village in the fall of 1908, with Rev. H. Alborn as the first clergyman. He was followed by J. H. Date. Then came O. D. Koontz, the present clergyman, who makes his home in Glenville. The present church board consists of S. Hyatt (president), Mrs. J. H. Goslee (secretary) and John Cook (treasurer). The cemetery controlled by this church is located two miles north of the village.

**The Myrtle United Brethren Church** was started as a congregation some twenty-two years ago in the Eckert schoolhouse some two and a half miles south of the village. In 1902 the church was built in the village, the trustees at that time being G. W. Geesey, W. W. Galt and S. Hoyt. The present board consists of Mrs. E. C. Robinson and Carl Johnson. Among the pastors have been C. H. Alborn, J. A. Bly, G. H. Varce and O. D. Koontz. The latter was pastor when the church was erected, and last year, after an interval in which other pastors filled the pulpit, he was again called to the position. His residence is in Glenville.



**PRESBYTERIAN.**

**The First Presbyterian Church of Alden** belongs to the Winona Presbytery of the Synod of Minnesota. Early meetings were held in the school building. The church was organized February 15, 1891, and the church was erected and dedicated the same year. In 1894 a parsonage was erected. The first pastor, Rev. H. J. Colwell, was succeeded by J. S. Boyd, W. H. Sinclair, M. C. Martin, Evert Smits and the Rev. Dr. Donald Morrison, the present pastor.

**Donald Morrison, D. D.**, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Alden, was born at Kintore, Ontario, Canada. He was educated at the district school, Kintore; at the Provincial Normal school, Toronto, Ontario, under the private tuition of James Morrison, M. A., and Rev. William Daunt, M. A.; the High school, Cobourg; at McGill University, and at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J. He was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick at Princeton, and has been at work constantly in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church since. The following are the churches served: The Presbyterian Church, of Iron Mountain, Mich., seven years; acting pastor, Presbyterian Church, Calumet, Mich., Presbyterian Church, Tekonsha, Mich., three different periods; Presbyterian Church, Toledo, Iowa. He came to Alden April, 1910. He has been twice a delegate to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

**Oakland Presbyterian Church.** This society was organized through the efforts of Elder Lowry, and was first called the Sumner Presbyterian Church. The first regular officers were Edward Lugg, John Guy and J. J. Oleson. The church was erected in 1880 in the northern part of section 2, at a cost of \$1,500, size 24 by 40 feet; \$500 was donated to this church by Miss Lenox, of New York, and with this the building was completed. It is seated to accommodate 200 persons. The first minister was the Rev. J. D. Todd, who held services in January, 1881. Among the early members of this church were James, Isaac, John, Robert and Samuel Guy, James and John Roulston, Th. and S. G. Lowry, William Catherwood, Even Morgan, James Harris, H. A. Rowley, George Boulton and others. The first services by this denomination in Moscow township were held during the fall of 1857, at the house of the reverend gentlemen who officiated, S. G. Lowry. The society effected an organization soon after, under the name of the Sumner and Moscow Presbyterian Church. Mr. Lowry continued to preach at his house and in school buildings for about two years, when the Rev. Mr. Morse, a follower of the Congregational faith, took the religious training of the



community in charge, and continued preaching once every two weeks for about one year. In 1858, Theo. Lowry organized a Sunday school at the schoolhouse in section 31, and acted in the capacity of superintendent.

### CONGREGATIONAL.

**The First Congregational Church of Freeborn Village** organized about 1880 and purchased the church edifice which had been erected by the Baptists in 1879. The building was moved about eighty rods east of the old location and did good service until a short time ago, when a splendid new edifice was erected. An early preacher in this church was the Rev. Mr. Luce. Rev. Wilbur Fisk was ordained here, and served the congregation until about a year ago, now living in Janesville, Kan. His pastorate extended over a period of some thirty years, and was blessed with many good results. The church was originally given assistance by the Home Mission body, but for the past ten or twelve years it has been self-supporting. Services are now held on alternate Sundays, Sunday school being held every Sunday under the direction of F. M. Snyder, who has been superintendent for many years. Miss R. F. Challis has for a long period been a most helpful factor in the church. Among the influential families of the congregation may be mentioned those of Seth Challis, Stephen Fuller, D. A. Scoville, F. M. Snyder, I. H. Seath, W. E. Seath, G. A. Seath and P. R. McClure. J. L. Jones is the present pastor of the church, supplying the pulpit from New Richland. The trustees are F. M. Snyder, G. A. Seath and H. G. Hunter. The deacons are F. M. Snyder, A. D. Scoville and John X. Luther.

**Moscow Congregational Church.** The first minister of the gospel following this faith who held services in Moscow was Rev. Stephen Cook, of Austin. He preached in the schoolhouse of District 31 in 1859, and April 8, 1860, a society was organized at the same schoolhouse with eleven members. The second preacher was a brother of the first, Rev. Nelson Cook. Rev. A. Morse, of Austin, was one of the pastors. A Union Sunday School was organized at the house of William Pace in March, 1857. Money was very liberally subscribed and a good supply of books procured. The organization started its good work under the most favorable auspices, with S. N. Frisbie as superintendent, and continued its efficiency for many years.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC.

**Hartland Catholic Church.** At present the small church building, the first erected in the village of Hartland, is owned by the Catholic Church. No regular services are held in it, as a fine

church building at Bath accommodates the meetings of the parish in this vicinity. Occasional services are held here by the Rev. Father Gossman, of New Richland.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church.** In May, 1859, Father Pendergast officiated at the first mass held in Geneva township, at the home of Thomas Cashman. Services were frequently held in this residence until 1866, when a church was erected in section 13. Among the early priests associated with this church were Fathers Fleming and McDermott. The new Geneva-Newry Catholic church was dedicated November 13, 1894.

**Bath Catholic Church.** The Catholic society first organized in Bath at the residence of Michael Sheehan, as early as 1865, and soon afterward a small frame building was erected for worship, in section 8, which was used for the purpose until a new and very fine edifice was erected. The society is in good financial condition, and has a good membership.

### ADVENTISTS.

**Riceland Seventh Day Adventist Church.** The first preaching to the adherents of this faith took place in 1865, at the house of Nels Hanson, with the Rev. John Mateson as minister; and after this, services and Sabbath school have been held regularly in private residences and schoolhouses. In 1878 the church was erected, size 20 by 30, at a cost of \$500. At the time of organization the society had about thirty-five members. There is a burial ground in connection with the church, which was laid out in 1872. The first burial here was the remains of Andrew Peterson. Hans Jensen and C. U. Christenson, the leading members of pioneer times, are dead. P. Peterson, another pioneer member, lives in Oregon.

### EARLY SERVICES.

**Early Services.** The first religious services held in the county were in Moscow township, and were conducted by Elder Sylvester N. Phelps, of Austin. He preached to a congregation in the home of Rufus K. Crum, in section 28, August 3, 1856, and these gatherings were continued until March of the following year. Later in the year he preached in Samuel Degood's house, in section 13, and a class of fifteen members was organized, with Isaac Vanderwurker as leader. A Sunday school was established at the same time, which continued until 1880.

During the winter of 1856-57 services were held in private houses in Moscow township and they were conducted by Daniel Ingraham, an itinerant exhorter. The following year Elder Mapes held services in various places, and these resulted in an



organization. A church was erected in 1865 and Elder Tice presided over the congregation. This was a Methodist society which continued for several years and then the organization disbanded.

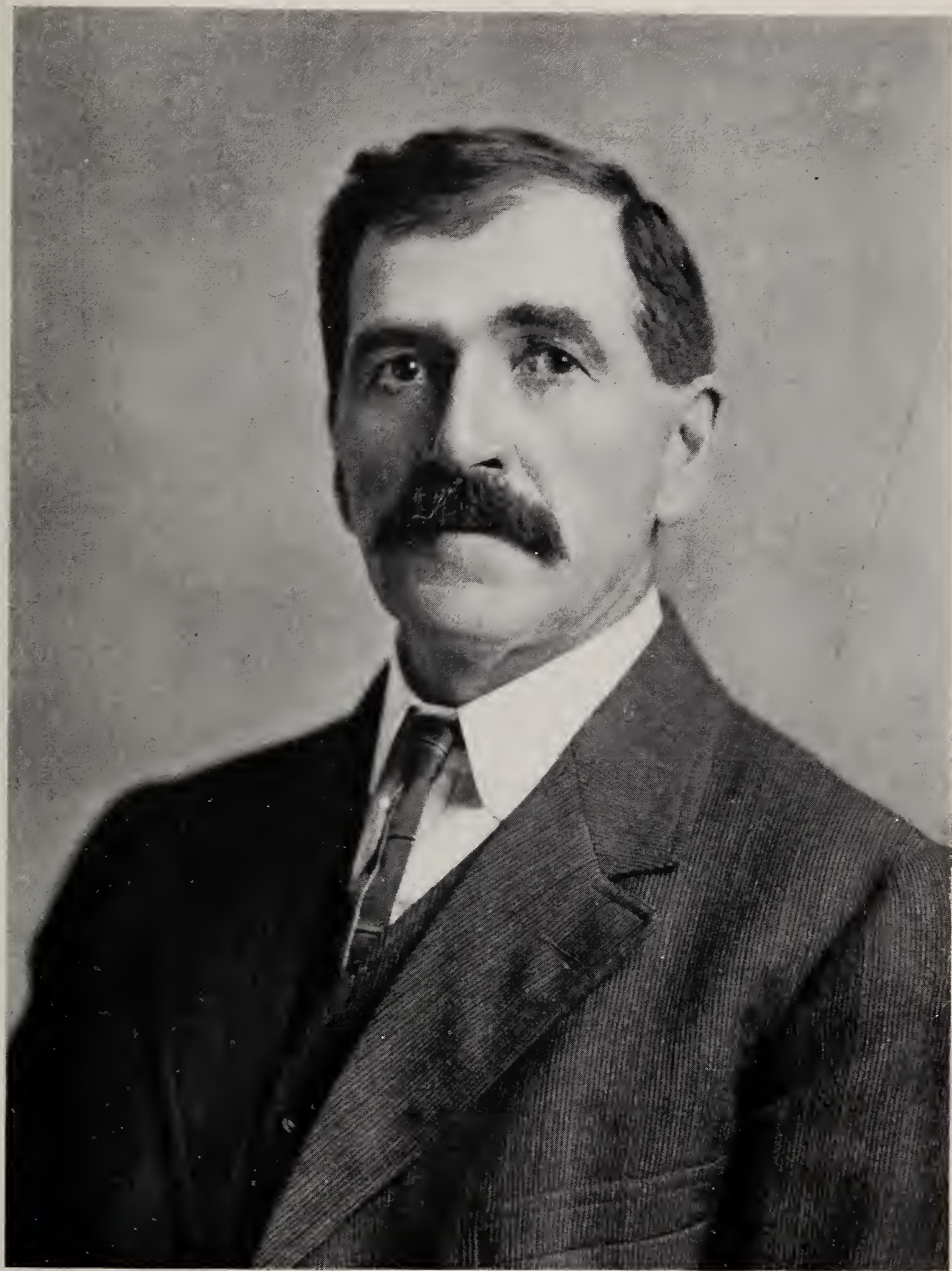
The Methodists have held services in Shell Rock township almost since the first settlement. About the first gathering was held at the residence of William Beighley in the winter of 1857-58 by Rev. Mr. Mapes, an itinerant Methodist preacher, with a congregation consisting almost entirely of Beighleys. A class was organized about the same time with William Beighley as leader. Services were continued at various places until the schoolhouse of District 50 was erected in the northeastern corner of section 32, where services were held for several years.

## DAIRY INTERESTS.

**What the Dairy Industry Has Meant to Freeborn County—Million Dollars a Year Received by the Farmers for Milk and Cream—Farmers of Clarkes Grove the Pioneers in the Movement—Story of the Creameries Throughout the County—Edited by Thomas Elwood Noble.**

The first settlers in Freeborn county, who came after the great influx of population in 1857, engaged in wheat raising almost exclusively, and the virgin soil yielded twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, year after year, of No. 1 hard. For several years this staple was hauled forty, fifty and 100 miles across the country to the Mississippi river, or to the nearest stations. With the coming of the railroad in 1869, Freeborn county was placed in closer communication with the great wheat markets, and there was a corresponding increase in wheat production. Soldiers had then been four years home from the war, much new land was being broken and the county was becoming famous as a wheat center. Albert Lea was one of the important wheat shipping points of the Northwest. But the wheat decline, starting in 1878 and coincident with the big drop in wheat prices, caused the farmers to turn their attention to diversified farming and dairying. Progress in the direction of dairying, however, was slow. It is true that the early settlers brought with them a few cows for dairy and beef purposes, but it was not until after the wheat failure that stock raising was considered as a leading feature of farm endeavor. Following the failure, Shorthorns and native cattle were bred, and a portion of the former large wheat fields were turned into pastures. However, large herds were the exception rather than a rule, and dairying was conducted on only a small scale. At that time agricultural experiment in this country was in its infancy, and the modern method of acclimation was unknown. Corn brought from more southern states and planted here was an uncertain crop, owing to the late springs and early falls. It was believed that only tame grasses, like clover and timothy, could be raised here. Without corn and good grass, Freeborn county beef could not compete with the better class of stock sold in the market, or could extensive dairying flourish under these circumstances. The average farmer owned four or five cows. A few herds were gathered here and shipped annually





T. E. NOBLE





from this county to the western plains and ranges. Horses were raised to some small extent and sold for a time at profit in the northwestern markets, chiefly in the larger cities. Cattle raising, however, under such disadvantages brought little, if any, profit, and then, too, the market value of the horse soon fell. It was while the Freeborn county farmers were realizing less and less each year and while they were in doubt as to what branch of agriculture to adopt next, that their attention was attracted to the new process of making butter from cream separated from the milk by machinery.

The churning of butter had for many years been an irksome task on almost every Freeborn county farm. Most of this dairying was on a small scale and the butter of a poor quality. A farmer here and there kept as high as a dozen or more milch cows, and established a reputation in the neighboring town for his wife's butter that enabled him to realize a fair price for his product. But private dairying meant doubtful profits, slavery for the women on the farm and much annoyance and waste of time to the farmer and his hired help. Accordingly, efforts were made at different times in several of the towns and villages of the county to make butter on a larger scale, and wagons were sent out in all directions to gather the cream from the top of the cans, paying the farmer by the measured inch. A few cheese factories were also started.

These gathered cream plants were usually owned either by individuals or by the merchants and town people who formed themselves into stock companies, though in one or two instances a few farmers formed stock companies among themselves and bought cream by the inch throughout a territory which often covered ten or fifteen miles in every direction. These gathered cream plants, however, did not pay, the one at Albert Lea losing its stockholders a large assessment in addition to the original investment before its affairs were finally wound up, and it is doubtful if one of these institutions ever brought in a dollar on the investment or actual profits to the patrons.

The new separator process promised to do away with all the objectionable features of making butter at the farm, and to realize profits instead of the losses experienced by both the owners and patrons of the gathered cream plants. The separator had been invented in Sweden early in the eighties; accounts of it had been published and its merits discussed in all the leading agricultural papers. Hans Peter Jensen, of Clarks Grove, this county, had seen separators in operation and had learned much about the co-operative separator creamery when he was in Denmark in 1884. Creamery supply houses throughout the West were advertising the new machines widely and commended them to those who were engaged



in the manufacture of butter. Co-operative separator creameries were already in operation 100 miles south of Freeborn county in Iowa, and the separator process had been adopted by the established creameries in the Illinois and Wisconsin districts. It was represented that the separator would skim so clean that but a small fraction of one per cent of butter fat would remain in the milk, and the separated milk could still be used as valuable feed for young stock on the farm.

With the belief that the use of the separator would make the manufacture of butter profitable and that dairying would prove a safe business for years to come, the Freeborn county farmers after careful inquiry and investigation formed themselves into co-operative associations first at Clarks Grove, then at Riceland, then Armstrong, at Clover Valley and at Glenville in the year 1890. They borrowed money to the amount of many thousands of dollars, erected creamery buildings, bought separators, churns, butter workers, boilers, engines, vats and pumps, hired skilled butter-makers, and commenced those shipments of butter to the eastern markets, which have increased steadily from year to year and in return for which money to the amount of many millions of dollars has been paid to the creamery patrons.

Since the establishing of the dairy industry and in connection with it, the Freeborn county farmers have adopted the intelligent and safe policy of diversified farming. No large fields of any one crop are longer grown, but instead many different crops are put in, so that there is certain to be each year a good yield of something, principally corn, oats, flax, clover and grasses. To add to the resources of the county, it was discovered that the former belief that tame grasses could not be grown was erroneous, for now clover and timothy, millet and grasses of all varieties grow here in great luxuriance and possess such unusual qualities that our butter excels in flavor and body that produced in other states. Corn, too, whether from acclimation of the seed or from longer seasons or from better cultivation, or from all these causes, has become a safe crop, and next to grass has become the chief crop.

Favored peculiarly by nature Freeborn county has become an ideal dairy district, and the intelligence and energy of its farmers have won for it the proud title of the "Banner Dairy County of the Northwest."

The improved economic conditions in Freeborn county since the introduction of the co-operative creamery are apparent on every hand. Farm lands have risen in value and \$100 an acre is not now considered an unusual price for a well improved farm. The small houses or log huts of the earlier period have given way to spacious farm houses well furnished and arranged for the



convenience of the housewife. The straw sheds and rough stables have been replaced by the big barn with plenty of room for cattle, horses and hundreds of tons of hay and feed. The grain and corn binders, rakes, hay loaders and stackers, cultivators and machinery and tools of all kinds are sheltered in well built sheds. Every farm has a granary, a deep tubular well and a windmill, often with gearing and attachments for grinding feed. The fences are of barbed wire or woven wire and in good repair. The stock is of good breed and is improving rapidly from year to year. The seed for crops is better selected. The fields are plowed in the fall and fertilized abundantly from the barnyard and tilled with the greatest care. The roads are better worked, graded and drained, and each year more miles of gravel is added and travel made more easy to the creamery and the market. There is a schoolhouse, comfortably built and well equipped, within easy reach of every house. The farmers from being the debtor class have become the creditor. They buy more and better goods at a less price than formerly and pay for what they get in cash which they receive from the creamery without fail every month. They drive better rigs, or even automobiles, and travel more, study more, deal more with one another, are more in touch with business, acquire experience in bookkeeping and money matters—in short, the status of the Freeborn county farmer and his family has improved in every respect, and he himself attributes this changed economic and social condition to the co-operative separator creamery of which he is always a patron.

Great credit is due to the farmers of Freeborn county for fostering the co-operative creamery idea, and there have been so few failures that the good work has gone on almost unrestrained until it is altogether our greatest industry. So, with a soil that raises the best grasses in the world, the people look to see the returns increased many fold as the years go on. The flavor that our butter gets from the sweet and nutritious grasses enables Freeborn county to top the New York market with the product. We have at present nearly 23,542 cows actually assessed in the year 1911, and our slogan for the future is more and better cows. The income from our cows last year was \$1,339,682.46, to say nothing of the fertility that went back onto the soil. The large returns from milk and butter in the past few years have encouraged the farmers to breed better cattle and the number that are using pure bred dairy sires has increased very materially in that time, and in another five years will add many full-blood and high-grade animals to our herds. Many full-blood and high-grade dairy herds have sprung up in the past few years. The dairy cow is queen of the farm and one of the greatest mortgage lifters in existence. She is virtually a machine which turns the products



of the farms into greatest profit. In order to get the largest returns her ways and her disposition must be understood. She affects almost any branch of farming and she is the most economical producer on the farm.

Freeborn county in 1886 had but one creamery, and that was located in Albert Lea, and was operated by Castie & Kennedy; but in 1888 there were four, at Albert Lea, Alden, Hayward and Glenville. In 1890 there were seven creameries, the Clarks Grove being the first co-operative creamery in the state. In 1902 the state had but 202 creameries, and Freeborn county had increased from four to twenty-three, an increase of sixteen in two years, besides three cheese factories, and best of all nearly all were on a co-operative basis. Between 1892 and 1894 there was an increase of but one creamery, but nineteen of the twenty-four were co-operative, a remarkable evolution in the conduct of the business. In 1896 there were twenty-four, and of these twenty-three were co-operative. The records show that in 1898 there were twenty-five creameries and twenty-four of them were co-operative. In 1900 the number of creameries had increased from twenty-five to twenty-eight, and twenty-seven of them were co-operative. In 1911 there are twenty-eight, of which twenty-seven are co-operative.

According to the 1910 report of the Dairy and Food Commissioner of the state of Minnesota, Freeborn county in that year had twenty-eight creameries, with 2,728 patrons and 27,253 cows. During the year 46,831,330 pounds of milk, 5,195,899 pounds of cream and 4,166,271 pounds of butter fat were received. The butter made totaled 5,085,372 pounds, the percentage of overrun being 22.06. The amount paid patrons for fat was \$1,339,682.46, and the running expenses were \$118,354.48. The increase is shown from the fact that in 1908 the amount of butter made was 3,255,968 pounds, and the amount paid patrons was \$729,983.

The annual report of the Dairy and Food Department of the state of Minnesota also gives a recapitulation of the creameries in Freeborn county. In the following list, gathered from that report, the name of the creamery association appears first, then the shipping point, then the name of the secretary and, lastly, the name of the buttermaker: Albert Lea Dairy Association, Albert Lea, P. W. Nobel, Carl Olson; Alden Creamery Company, Alden, And. Robertson, W. C. Rasmussen; Armstrong Creamery Company, Armstrong, Louis Fogel, Gust Knudson; Bancroft Creamery Association, Albert Lea, B. J. Hermanson, L. B. Anderson; Banner Co-operative Creamery Association, Oakland, L. O. Ofstun, Peter Peterson; Clarks Grove Creamery Association, Clarks Grove, J. C. Johnson, H. H. Jensen; Clover Valley Creamery Association, Twin Lakes, D. W. Sair, H. W. Peterson; Conger Creamery Company,



Conger, W. H. Horning, S. Heine; Enterprise Co-operative Creamery Association, London, W. M. Stewart, Sam. Nelson; Freeborn County Creamery Company, Albert Lea, J. A. Zimmerman, H. J. Hendricks; Freeborn Creamery Company, Freeborn, F. M. Snyder, O. J. Hoium; Freeman Dairy Association, Glenville, N. O. Nelson, Ole O. Rusley; Geneva Village Creamery Association, Clarks Grove, L. P. Lawson, F. J. Kassube; Glenville Creamery Association, Glenville, H. Houg, N. O. Siverling; Gordonsville Creamery Association, Gordonsville, John C. Buley, John C. Buley; Hayward Creamery Association, Hayward, M. P. Hanson, A. C. Nilson; Hartland Creamery Association, Hartland, R. M. Olson, P. A. Jordahl; Manchester Creamery Association, Manchester, G. O. Myran, Fred Peterson; Mansfield Central Creamery Company, Alden, G. F. Meyer, H. L. Hanson; Moscow Co-operative Creamery Association, Oakland, Ben Bridley, Fred Beckel; Myrtle Creamery Company, Myrtle, E. E. Nelson, A. W. Seidel; Newry Co-operative Creamery Association, Blooming Prairie, M. J. Amundson, A. Johnson; Oakland Creamery Company, Oakland, C. A. Rasmussen, C. A. Rasmussen; Poplar Grove Creamery, Hartland, C. R. Sullivan, O. Bartness; Riceland Creamery Association, Clarks Grove, Erick Jonsrud, James Rasmussen; State Line Farmers' Creamery Association, Lyle, M. J. Rohne, W. E. Call; Sumner Valley Creamery Association, Hayward, Olaf Wangen, E. Anderson; Union Creamery Company, Emmons, Axel Arneson, Peter Kvale.

It has been the intention of the managers of this publication to give a brief history of each creamery in the county, and in this purpose the publishers have been greatly assisted by the secretaries of the various creameries. Only a few of the persons approached for information have failed to respond. In preparing this article much assistance has been received from the Creamery Edition of the "Freeborn County Times," issued in 1900, and prepared for exhibition at the Paris Exposition. The annual reports spoken of are for 1910, unless otherwise specified.

**The First Creamery.** The Fountain Lake Creamery is believed to have been the first stock company creamery in the county. It was owned and operated by a joint stock company, with a capital of \$10,000, and was located at the foot of Broadway, near the lake. Some of the leading business men in the city were interested in the enterprise, the stockholders being John Godley, Frank Hall, F. A. Blackmer, A. C. Wedge, J. W. Smith, Knatvold Brothers, E. S. Prentice, H. A. Colburn, Theodore Tyrer, D. R. P. Hibbs, H. D. Brown, W. P. Sergeant and William Hazleton. The first officers of the company were: President, A. C. Wedge; secretary and treasurer, D. R. P. Hibbs; superintendent, William Hazleton. The business was started on Tuesday of May 11, 1881,



with cream from 200 cows. This business passed through various hands and was finally closed out.

**Clarks Grove Creamery Association.** Among those of a small colony of Danes, who had moved from southern Wisconsin to Clarks Grove in this county in 1864, was Hans Peter Jensen, who bought a farm in Bancroft township just south of the present village of Clarks Grove. In 1884 he went back to Denmark for a visit, and there he first heard of the cream separator and cooperative creamery. When he returned home he frequently discussed these matters with his neighbors, many of whom were making butter on a small scale in their own homes. Rev. Lars Jorgenson also became interested in the project. In the fall of 1889 there arrived at the Jenson farm, Soren Nelson, of Rosedale, Meeker county, Minnesota, who had been investigating creameries in Iowa and was on his way home to found the first co-operative creamery in Meeker county. His enthusiasm had the effect of convincing Mr. Jensen that the time was ripe for the establishment of such a creamery for the benefit of the farmers of Bath, Bancroft, Geneva and Riceland. Accordingly, a meeting was called, to be held January 28, 1890, at the Danish Baptist church, at Bath. At this meeting Hans Peter Jensen presided, Paul Hanson was secretary, and several speeches were made by H. P. Jensen, J. S. Lunde, John Anderson and others. J. P. Larson and L. P. Lawson were appointed a committee to visit certain creameries in Iowa and report conditions there. They reported at a meeting held in Clarks Grove February 11, 1890. A committee consisting of J. P. Larson, L. P. Lawson and Hans E. Nelson secured the pledges of about 500 cows from those present. J. P. Larson, Hans E. Nelson, John Anderson, Erick Johnsrud, L. P. Lawson, Hans E. Nelson, John C. Johnson, Andrew N. Jensen, J. W. Peterson and Anton Jensen were instructed to draft a constitution and set of by-laws, select a site for the proposed creamery and to get as many more as possible to join the enterprise. The committee met at the church three days later. J. P. Larson presided and Erick Johnsrud, later secretary of the Riceland creamery, acted as secretary. The committee decided to call the new organization the Clarks Grove Creamery company, and two sites were proposed. At a meeting of the association held at the church February 17, J. P. Larson was appointed chairman, Erick Johnsrud, secretary, and J. P. Lawson, assistant secretary. A new list of members, with the number of cows pledged, was circulated among those present by J. C. Johnson, J. W. Peterson, Ole Henry and L. P. Lawson. Seventy-four signatures were secured, pledging 493 cows. The constitution and by-laws were adopted, and after considerable discussion and several votes the present site on P. C. Christensen's farm was selected. This was a considerable



distance from Riceland and the people of that township withdrew, later perfecting the organization of Riceland Creamery Association. For the Clarks Grove organization, J. P. Larson was chosen president and L. P. Lawson secretary. John Anderson was chosen vice-president, P. C. Christensen, treasurer, and J. W. Peterson, E. C. Johnson and A. N. Jensen, directors. Mr. Christensen asked to be excused from acting as treasurer and J. C. Johnson, who had received the next largest number of votes, was appointed to the position. The building was erected, equipment installed and the company incorporated. The first milk was received May 5, 1890, and W. C. Larson was engaged as buttermaker. In January, 1897, the Babcock cream test was adopted. The present officers of the association are Ole Larson, president; J. C. Johnson, secretary; Paul Hanson, treasurer; James A. Fitzgerald, J. H. Barlow and P. C. Sorensen, directors.

This first of all Freeborn county co-operative creameries is a model institution in every way. Its affairs are conducted on a business-like scale, and the secretary, J. C. Johnson, is always ready to furnish facts to those seeking for information. The creamery is housed in a model building, modern in every respect. April 10, 1905, the contract was let for this new building at \$4,922. With the hauling of materials the building cost about \$5,500. The well and sheds cost about \$600, the new machinery cost \$2,500 and miscellaneous expenses were \$275, making a total cost of about \$9,000. The last annual report shows among other items the following interesting facts: Milk received, 4,334,748 pounds; cream received, 75,430 pounds; total butter fat received, 183,286 pounds; total butter sold, 224,138 pounds; total paid patrons for milk and cream, \$63,446.03; total received from butter and other sources, \$68,788.99. The buttermaker is H. H. Jensen. The creamery has about 100 patrons, who own about a thousand cows.

**Riceland Creamery Association.** As before stated, the people of Riceland took an active part in the organization of the Clarks Grove Co-operative Creamery, Erick Jonsrud and Ole Henry being the two moving spirits. The location selected, however, was too far away for the Riceland farmers. Accordingly, a few weeks after the organization of the Clarks Grove association, the Riceland farmers called a meeting at Ingebrigtson schoolhouse, and an organization was at once perfected, with Christian Larson as president; Jens Erickson, vice-president; E. Jonsrud, secretary; Christian Jacobson, treasurer, and J. Miller, Ole Henry, O. O. Bagaasen, directors. The Clarks Grove constitution and by-laws were adopted and March 13, 1890, the association incorporated with a capital stock of \$5,000. The canvassing committee, Lewis Evenson, Nels Olson, Ole Henry, Erick Jonsrud, Ole Bagaasen and Jens Erickson, secured pledges for 410 cows. A suitable



building, properly equipped, was erected and Mr. Larkins engaged as buttermaker, and on the morning of June 4, 1890, one month later than the opening of the Clarks Grove Creamery, the first milk was received. Christian Larson, the first president, resigned a few weeks after the organization and Thomas Iverson was elected to succeed him, but at the first annual meeting Mr. Larson again became president of the organization. In May and June, 1906, a new creamery, 32 by 80, was built at a cost of \$8,400. The ice house, 16 by 30, is a separate building. The following items are culled from the last annual report: Milk received, 3,555,212 pounds; cream received, 75,249 pounds; total paid patrons for milk and cream, \$50,843.91; butter made, 178,049 pounds; total received for butter, \$53,803.97. The patrons of this creamery own about 1,200 cows. The buttermaker is James Rasmussen. The officers are: H. J. Eid, president; C. U. Christensen, vice-president; Erick Jonsrud, secretary; Ed. Open, treasurer; Nels Vollum, manager; J. O. Hellie and P. P. Overgaard, directors.

**Armstrong Creamery Association.** The farmers living in the vicinity of Armstrong station were among the original dairymen of the county. They had abandoned wheat raising and turned their attention to diversified farming and were considering the addition of dairying at the time when the Clarks Grove farmers met to organize a creamery. On April 15, 1890, their first meeting was held in the Armstrong depot, at which G. W. Hopkins was elected chairman, and C. H. Ruble acted as secretary. A committee consisting of J. H. Converse, B. B. Randall, A. Rebbe, Peter Tonges, Fred Weiser, Christ Pistorius and C. H. Ruble was appointed to canvass for cows, it being decided that 500 cows must be pledged before the association could be formed. May 20 another meeting was held, and the committee reported that the desired number of cows had been pledged, and accordingly the association was organized and a building subsequently erected. J. H. Converse was elected president of the association; Ed. Norton, secretary; B. A. Cady, treasurer; B. B. Randall, Henry Fink, Charles Kruger, Ed. Bissell and G. W. Hopkins, directors. Owing to the sentiment in favor of cheese making, it was decided to make this product exclusively at first, but by the time the factory was completed the board of directors had decided that this would be an unprofitable industry. Consequently no cheese was ever made, and this decision delayed the opening of the creamery for some little time. In March, 1891, nearly one year after the first meeting had been held and seven months after the completion of the creamery building, the first butter was made and six tubs were shipped March 25. The association now has a fine new creamery building, 34 by 60 feet, modern in every respect. The president is E. G.



Abbe and the secretary is Louis Fogel. In 1910 the creamery received 2,384,547½ pounds of milk and cream. The amount of butter made was 113,086½ pounds. The butter was sold for \$34,243.97, and the patrons were paid \$27,481.59. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 500 cows.

**State Line Creamery Association.** At a meeting held in the Davidson schoolhouse, Worth county, Iowa, on February 11, 1893, it was decided to erect a creamery on Jacob Loftaas' land in London township. At this meeting 152 cows were pledged and a committee appointed, consisting of John Bergerson, Gilbert Hanson, L. Nelson, Lars Torblaa, M. J. Rohne and Nels Davidson, to solicit for more cows. Ole Kjonaas and Nels Davidson were instructed to prepare a constitution and set of by-laws. A second meeting was called February 17, at the Davis schoolhouse, in London township, and the soliciting committee reported that 413 cows had been pledged and the name State Line Creamery was decided on. At this meeting Nels Davidson was elected president; John Bergerson, vice-president; M. J. Rohne, secretary; Jacob M. Loftaas, treasurer, and L. Nelson, Daniel Young and L. Henderson were made the board of directors. Messrs. Davidson and Bergerson were appointed to visit various creameries in the state and secure information regarding the operating and management of creameries. The building was completed; C. F. Myers was engaged as buttermaker, and the creamery opened for business on June 17.

**Bancroft Creamery Association.** In the fall of 1890 a few of the farmers in the township of Bancroft concluded that the establishment of a creamery at a convenient point would prove of material value to the farmers of that part of the county. Not until the following year, however, were any definite plans made, and then the farmers seemed of one mind regarding the project. The building was erected by them, and by the middle of May, 1891, everything was in readiness to receive milk and begin operations. Owing to a little trouble with the machinery, they were delayed for two days, and on the fifteenth of that month the first milk was received. The following year this creamery was awarded a diploma and medal at the World's Fair in Chicago, for the fine quality of its butter. S. A. Moen was the buttermaker at that time. At the present time J. P. Nelson is president and B. J. Hermanson secretary. The latest annual report shows the following business: Milk received, 2,333,858 pounds; cream received, 98,122 pounds; butter made, 132,487 pounds; paid patrons, \$37,059.12; total received for butter during the year, \$40,284.73. The patrons of this creamery own about 1,200 cows. In 1908 the creamery was repaired, cement blocks being laid all around, up to the windows, and a cement floor being laid.



**Mansfield Central Creamery Company.** In 1890, when the North Star Creamery was established in Emmons, many of the farmers of Mansfield township became its patrons. Shortly after January 1, 1891, some of the farmers met in the John Niebuhr hall in Mansfield and a creamery association was organized. Officers were elected and a constitution, by-laws adopted, and a committee appointed to visit creameries throughout the county and to obtain plans for a building to be erected on the Niebuhr farm, one mile south of the present creamery. Two weeks later a second creamery organization formed and decided to erect a building two miles west and one mile north of the Niebuhr farm. A committee sent from the first association met one sent from the second, and a compromise was effected and the present site agreed upon. Several days later a joint meeting was held in Niebuhr hall, and about a week later the plans were perfected at the Wacholtz schoolhouse. Charles Lembke was elected president of the association; Christ Jahnke, vice-president; W. B. Tunell, secretary; Henry Meyer, treasurer, and Ernest Hintz, Fred Hartman, Valentine Katzung, John Wacholtz, J. H. J. Seedorf and Thomas Dunn, directors. A constitution and set of by-laws were adopted and the officers instructed to build as soon as 300 cows could be pledged. The directors decided to erect the building at once on a tract of land leased of W. B. Tunell. Business was started May 18. Mr. Welch was employed as the buttermaker.

**Sumner Valley Creamery Association.** This creamery association was organized in the summer of 1893 at a meeting held at the residence of J. J. Moe, in Riceland township. Among the first officers of the association were S. O. Nashby, president, and S. I. Tufte, secretary. The members of the new organization were patrons of the Riceland or Hayward creameries and, having a long distance to haul their milk, were greatly in favor of a creamery at some more convenient point. The building was erected the same season and began operation in the fall of 1893. For a time cheese was manufactured as well as butter, but this industry was eventually abandoned. S. I. Tufte is still the president, and Olaf Wangen is the secretary and manager, in which position he is giving general satisfaction. The patrons of this creamery have about 375 cows. Following are a few items culled from the last annual report: Milk and cream received, 1,434,085 pounds; butter made, 70,286 pounds; paid patrons for milk and cream, \$18,613.13; total received for butter, cream and buttermilk, \$20,883.57. New machinery has been installed as needed and the plant is thoroughly modern.

**Albert Lea Dairy Association.** As a result of a series of meetings held in the fall and early winter in the schoolhouse of District No. 110, and in the city council chambers, the Albert Lea Cream-



ery Association was organized December 30, 1891, and 544 cows were pledged. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the following officers elected: T. A. Vandergrift, president; John Bergelund, vice-president; A. C. Wedge, treasurer, and C. W. Levens, secretary. Mr. Levens soon resigned and C. N. Ruble was elected to succeed him. The selection of a site was left to the board and, after considering several propositions, the present location was decided on, which is northeast of the city. The creamery was subsequently erected and began to receive milk on the morning of April 20, 1892, with J. H. Jones, who had been the first buttermaker at Clarks Grove, in charge. In January, 1897, it was decided to reorganize, and at this time the old association passed out of existence, and the Albert Lea Dairy Association was formed. The spring of this year witnessed an altogether new experiment in the manufacture of pastuerized butter, and the necessary equipment for pasteurizing milk was installed. This experiment with pasteurization was continued for nearly a year, until April, 1898, and the buttermaker who had attempted the experiment resigned from the creamery. In 1898 the United States Agricultural Department decided to make some experimental shipments of butter to England with a view of establishing a market for butter in that country in competition with the Danish and English Dorset article. Albert Lea was one of the four creameries selected to prepare butter for these shipments. In 1899 the department again undertook some experimental shipments, this time to Japan. In 1908 in conjunction with the Agricultural Department of the state of Minnesota, the United States Department of Agriculture conducted at the Albert Lea creamery a series of experiments in manufacturing Emmenthaler Swiss cheese. A few items culled from the last annual report of the association are as follows: Milk received, 2,806,947 pounds; cream received, 400,308 pounds; butter made, 259,180 pounds; total received from all sales, \$82,224.36; paid patrons in cash and butter, \$75,451.68. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery owned about 1,800 cows.

**State Experiment Station.** In the summer of 1911, the state of Minnesota purchased the plant of the Albert Lea Dairy Association, where the government and the state had previously conducted experiments, for the purpose of establishing a regular experiment station in the center of the richest dairying section of the state. The negotiations between the creamery officers and the dairy commissioner were carried on by D. C. Armstrong and Clint. L. Luce, president and secretary of the Albert Lea Business Men's League, and they worked with no hope of reward except to push along the dairy interests of the state and country. The creamery was formally dedicated as a state institution with



elaborate ceremonies; state and local officials and leading dairy authorities being present in large numbers. At the time of the transfer the officers were: President, F. S. Ruble; vice president, H. P. Hanson; secretary, P. W. Noble. When the sale was being contemplated, the Albert Lea correspondent of the "Pioneer Press" said: "When the creamery was established, a wooden structure, the kind usually built in the early history of the co-operative creamery movement, was erected, and this served the purposes of the association until 1902, when a modern brick structure was built, larger and more convenient than the old one, and better calculated to carry on the business. This building was erected by borrowing money, and repaying it from the sinking fund. This amount is all paid except a small sum, and the sinking fund has sufficient to wipe it out when the sale is consummated. The brick building is 30 by 110 feet with fourteen feet posts and cost \$4,924.25, but since then the buildings have been erected for the federal government experiment station discontinued last autumn that cost \$2,000, while two other small buildings have been erected which cost \$430, making the total cost of buildings the state is to obtain August 1, about \$7,624, while the machinery has cost the creamery more than \$5,000. During the time the creamery has been in operation here, more than 75,000,000 pounds of milk have been handled and the patrons have been paid more than a million dollars for their dairy product alone, not to include the value of feed received from the skimmed milk and butter milk."

**Moscow Co-Operative Creamery Association.** In the fall of 1891 this creamery association was organized, being one of the oldest creameries in the county. Charles Mann was elected president, Ed Lugg vice-president, Chris Rettig secretary and M. O. Leary, treasurer. The present creamery building was erected during the fall and early winter and the creamery commenced operations January 1, 1892, with D. M. Jones as butter-maker. Moscow creamery has about 100 patrons, who own between 400 and 500 cows, and is one of the flourishing creameries of Freeborn county. In the last annual report the following items appear: Milk received, 1,568,807 pounds; cream received, 62,612 pounds; butter made, 71,848.82 pounds; total received for butter, \$25,221.12. The president is Elling Soli and the secretary is Ben Bridley.

**Alden Creamery Company.** In 1890 the Alden Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery Company was formed and the company purchased the Spring Valley gathered cream plant, which had been operated at Alden for three or four years, and which had itself succeeded the old cheese factory that was established in the early eighties. In January, 1893, a meeting of the directors was



called, and it was decided that steps should be taken to secure a separator. At a meeting held March 4, 1893, a new organization was formed to be known as the Farmers' Creamery Company and the following officers were elected: J. L. Garlock, president; J. M. Larson, vice president; Andrew Robertson, secretary; C. L. Tood, treasurer, and John Rasmussen, Henry Stiehl and C. R. Fellows, directors. The old building and site were traded to W. A. Morin for a lot farther east and the present fine building now occupied by the organization was erected in the fall of 1899. The officers for this year were: W. H. Walker, president; N. C. Larson, vice president; A. Robertson, secretary; Peter Hanson, treasurer, and H. Fink, A. W. Masee and H. L. Jensen, directors. The company issues a neat annual statement. Some items taken from the report of 1909 will be of interest: Milk received, 2,904,454 pounds; cream received, 219,717 pounds; total pounds of butter fat received, 184,094; total butter made and sold, 224,002; paid to patrons for milk and cream, \$60,560.80; total received for butter, cream and buttermilk, about \$71,000.

**Freeman Dairy Association.** This association was incorporated September 20, 1899, with Robert Freeman, president; M. X. Sisson, vice-president; N. E. Hagen, secretary; W. G. Freeman, treasurer, and C. H. Howe, N. O. Nelson, and J. J. Anderson, directors. Nic Siverling was engaged as buttermaker and the creamery began to take in milk on New Year's day, 1900. W. G. Freeman is now the president and N. O. Nelson the secretary. The patrons of this creamery own about 550 cows. Last year 1,057,994 pounds of milk and 47,846 pounds of cream were received. The butter made amounted to some 57,029 pounds, which was sold at \$16,905.58.

**Freeborn Creamery Association.** During the fall of 1892, considerable sentiment in favor of establishing a creamery in Freeborn was created by D. U. Richards, and a meeting was called at the school house on October 11, over which F. M. Snyder presided. At this meeting the Freeborn Dairy Association was organized with a capital stock of \$4,500. The first officers elected were L. T. Scott, president; Mrs. Mary Aldrich, vice-president; D. U. Richards, secretary; M. D. Hawser, treasurer, and W. H. Miller, Andrew Peterson, Charles Derby, F. M. Snyder and Herman Raforth, directors. The directors were instructed to locate a site for the new creamery. Work on the building was begun in November and the creamery opened operations early the following March with D. U. Richards as general manager, secretary and buttermaker. This association was succeeded by the Freeborn Creamery Company.

**Freeborn Creamery Company.** The Freeborn Creamery Company was organized in Freeborn township, and incorporated



January 21, 1905. The following men comprised the officers of the organization: W. A. Brooks, president; E. J. Hallum, vice-president; E. M. Snyder, secretary and manager; C. A. Peters, treasurer. At different periods since the opening of this creamery W. A. Brooks, C. H. Derby and G. P. Lattin have served as president, while others who have been prominently identified with the growth of the concern are W. H. Miller, Peter Jacobson, H. G. Huntze, together with many whose names do not here appear. This creamery has carried on a flourishing business since it opened and its annual make of butter varies from 125,000 to 150,000 pounds. The present officers of this enterprising organization are: G. P. Lattin, president; F. M. Snyder, secretary and **manager**; S. A. Beach, vice-president, and P. A. Stensrud, treasurer. This company succeeded the Freeborn Creamery Association, and uses the building erected by that association, a cement floor, however, having been put in. The patrons own about 900 cows. A few items from the last annual report are as follows: Milk received, 415,996 pounds; cream received, 413,300 pounds; paid to patrons for milk and cream, \$38,834.77; received for butter, \$43,054.92; paid patrons for milk and cream, \$38,834.77.

**Geneva Creamery Association.** Early in 1891, a series of meetings were held in the Monarch school house east of the village of Geneva, which resulted in the organization, on February 9, of the Geneva Creamery Association. Ira M. Sawyer was made president of this organization, Alexander Scott vice-president, M. J. Quinn secretary, George Goodnature treasurer, and B. H. Conklin, Michael Quinn and Rasmus Olson, directors. The board of directors was instructed to borrow \$3,000 for the erection of a suitable building and equipment and by the last of April the creamery commenced operations, with T. F. Linehan as butter-maker.

**Oakland Creamery Association.** In the fall of 1893 a great deal of interest was aroused in South Oakland in a creamery movement and a representative of Davis Rankin Company from Chicago was largely responsible for this agitation. A meeting was called at the home of John Murane and a committee appointed to interest the farmers in that vicinity in this enterprise. The location selected for the erection of this creamery building was about three miles northeast from the present site, but as not enough subscribers could be secured from the district tributary to this the project was temporarily abandoned. The representative from the Chicago firm took the same list and secured signers in the district further west and when a meeting was called the new signers outvoted the old with the result that the creamery was located a considerable distance from the site originally decided on, so far in fact that some of the first signers never patronized the



association. The building was completed and F. E. Wilson engaged as buttermaker and the first milk received in the spring of 1894. For a time butter and skim milk cheese were manufactured, but as there was no market for cheese, cheese making was soon abandoned. Since the creamery was erected many improvements have been made in the building. New machinery and equipment has been added, a new stone floor has been put in, and a new boiler and engine churn and cream vat have been installed. The excellent business done is shown in the following items taken from the last annual report: Milk received, 666,739 pounds; cream received, 154,454 pounds; butter made from milk and cream, 78,335 pounds; paid patrons for milk and cream, \$20,957.13; total received for butter during the year, \$23,194.52. The patrons of this creamery own about 430 cows. Daniel Casey is the president and C. A. Rasmussen the secretary.

**Glenville Creamery Association.** At a meeting of the farmers and business men of Glenville and the adjoining country, on October 18, 1890, the Glenville Dairy Association was formed. Among the principal workers for this movement were O. M. Nelson and D. U. Richards, to whom much credit is due for their untiring efforts. At first there were but nine stockholders who were willing to venture as much as \$50 in the undertaking. These were William Nelson, C. M. Nelson, John Kalstad, D. U. Richard, Nicholas P. Nelson, William Marpe, Even Nelson, Andrew Larson and George Gilbert. The building was commenced in November, 1890, and completed and opened for business the following January. The first officers were: O. M. Nelson, president; J. E. Barron, vice-president; William Nelson, treasurer; A. W. Trow, secretary, and the board of directors comprised the following members: James Peterson, John Kalstad, William Marpe, E. W. Gleason and Joe Christianson. The first separator was installed in March, and since the fourteenth day of that month in 1891, there has been steady work going on in this flourishing organization. The president is E. W. Gleason and the secretary is Henry Houg. The patrons own about 1,000 cows. A few items from the last annual report are as follows: Milk received, 1,408,969 pounds; cream received, 201,747 pounds; total butter manufactured, 121,550 pounds; paid patrons, \$37,166.05; total received for year, \$37,186.74. In addition to the officers mentioned, A. W. Abbott is vice-president and A. H. Bender, treasurer. N. C. Siverling is buttermaker. The directors are: Joseph Chrs, George Quam and S. P. Nelson. In 1902 this concern erected a new modern brick building at a cost of \$9,700.00.

**Geneva Village Creamery Association.** Soon after the Clarks Grove Creamery was organized in 1890, it was seen that Geneva village was a desirable point for a creamery or skimming station,



and several ineffectual attempts were made to establish one in this village. Owing to disagreement as to location and because of a cheese factory already in operation, no definite action was taken. Early in 1894, more than three years after the first agitation, the movement was again started and this time several preliminary meetings were held and it was decided to organize as soon as 500 cows would be pledged and several men canvassed the district with lists. A meeting was called in the village of Geneva February 15, 1894, and the Creamery Association, formed with forty-four patrons and 487 cows pledged. The location of the building was agreed upon and the following officers elected: A. N. Jensen, president; C. B. Wheeler, vice-president; L. P. Lawson, secretary; Jay E. Jones, treasurer; L. Frederickson, Nels Lawson and Eber Randall, directors. The constitution and by-laws of the Berlin Summit Creamery with but few amendments were adopted and later the board met and decided on the building to be erected. On April 11, 1894, the machinery was set in motion and the creamery began to receive milk, with W. C. Lawson occupying the position of buttermaker. A. N. Jensen resigned as president and John Nelson was elected to succeed him and served until 1901. Since that time A. N. Jensen has been elected and served as president. The present officers are: A. N. Jensen, president; M. F. Jensen, vice-president; L. P. Lawson, secretary; A. S. Anderson, treasurer; G. H. Allis, R. M. Farr and H. C. Hanson, directors. The first patrons agreed to furnish the number of cows pledged until the plant should be paid for, and this payment was made in 1906. It has been the policy of the association to deal impartially with all its patrons and at the present time there are about 108 patrons, owning about 1,200 cows. The first buttermaker, W. C. Lawson, served until 1902, and was succeeded by H. L. Ditterson, who was employed by the association from 1902 until 1908. The present buttermaker, F. J. Kassube, is well fitted for the work in which he is engaged and gives general satisfaction to the creamery association. The total receipts from the butter sold the first year that the creamery was in operation amounted to \$15,266.49, and the patrons were paid \$13,158.24. For the year of 1910 the total receipts for butter sold were \$71,640.77, and the patrons were paid \$66,270.82. During the seventeen years that the creamery has been in operation patrons of the institution have been paid a total of \$671,300. The old plant was replaced by a new brick building in the latter part of the year of 1910, which cost \$8,000, and which is a building of which the association is justly proud. The first secretary of the organization is still serving and his intelligence and enterprise have had much to do with the success of the association, in fact all who are connected with the creamery are to be congratulated



on the high standard which the organization has attained. In 1910, the milk received amounted to 3,343,540 pounds, and the cream received amounted to 311,121 pounds. The total pounds of butter made during the year was 243,500 pounds.

**Banner Co-Operative Creamery Association.** The Banner Co-Operative Creamery Association of Oakland township was organized February 16, 1898. There had been a meeting the previous week, and N. N. Earl was chosen president of the prospective association, W. F. Hatch vice-president, Abe Newell secretary, A. Young treasurer, and O. O. Ofstun, W. Torrén and Charles Knudson, directors. About ten years prior to this time, a cheese factory had been erected and equipped in Oakland township, but as this industry proved unprofitable the factory stood idle for several years and was purchased by the new creamery association, and remodeled and an entirely new equipment installed. The first milk was hauled to this creamery April 15, L. W. Comstock being engaged as buttermaker. The patrons of this creamery own about 350 cows. The president is C. R. Knudson and the secretary L. O. Ofstun. The following items appear on the last annual report: Milk received, 1,343,775 pounds; cream received, 18,376 pounds; butter made, 62,146 pounds; paid patrons, \$16,505; received for butter during the year, \$18,521.60.

**Hartland Creamery Association.** The Hartland Creamery Association was organized on the combined stock and co-operative plan, at Hartland village, January 20, 1891, with J. C. Sibelrud president; A. J. Stensvad, vice-president; J. W. Donovan, secretary; B. W. Nolan, treasurer, and F. D. Drake, Ellef Anderson and Thomas Donovan, directors. The new creamery association leased a tract of land east of the depot of W. A. Morin and erected a creamery building early in the spring. For a time during the summer months the association found the creamery business rather difficult work and in November a special meeting was called to consider the advisability of closing until spring, but it was decided to continue operations and run the plant through the winter. Mr. Burr was employed in the capacity of buttermaker during the first year the creamery was operated. In the forenoon of December 2, 1895, the Hartland Creamery was destroyed by fire. The insurance of \$1,100 was settled and a few days later the stockholders met and decided to rebuild and a committee consisting of A. J. Stensvad, B. W. Nolan, Ole J. Peterson, C. J. Lynne and Louis Knutson were instructed to inspect the Manchester and other creameries and secure plans. A new building was erected during the winter and by the following February all the capital stock had been paid in and the creamery had completely recovered from its loss by fire and was out of debt. The



last annual report contains the following items: Milk received, 28,460 pounds; cream received, 437,026 pounds; total pounds of butter made, 134,285 pounds; received for butter, \$40,018.91; paid patrons for milk and cream, \$41,135.58. The president is A. O. Nelson and the secretary R. M. Olson. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 800 cows. The company plans to erect a new brick building in the spring.

**The London Creamery.** The London Butter and Cheese Company was organized at the Goslee school house in London township April 27, 1886, with \$1,500 capital stock. During the previous winter meetings had been held at the school house and among those who met with the farmers and urged the establishment of the cheese factory, was E. B. Williams, of Lansing, Minn. The first officers of the association were: J. H. Goslee, president; P. Bump, vice-president; W. N. Goslee, treasurer; A. E. Johnson, secretary, and R. P. Davidson, F. L. Davis, P. Bump and John Roberts, directors. The board leased a piece of land of W. N. Goslee and erected a building. The factory began operations in the season of 1886. In the spring of 1894 the association entered into an arrangement with D. M. Jones, whereby the latter was to have the use of the building and plant free of charge for five years for operating a separator creamery. The new creamery began to take in milk in May, 1894, and the officers of the new management were: J. H. Goslee, president; Peter Nelson, vice-president; George P. Meadowcroft, secretary; P. Bump, treasurer; Henry Lang, James Lang, R. P. Davidson and M. W. Stewart, directors.

**North Star Creamery Association.** This creamery association was organized in August, 1910, at a meeting held in the open air. The association was organized on the combined and co-operative stock company plan and its first officers were: H. O. Thompson, president; Ole O. Lee, vice-president; S. B. Thornby, secretary; H. H. Emmons, treasurer, and Alfred Emery, Ellef Evenson, H. N. Bergerson, James Sorenson, Lewis Larson, Ole I. Opdahl, S. L. Davidson, J. H. J. Seedorf and H. J. Schmidt, directors. The first building was burned May 25, 1899, and replaced nine days later. Previous to the forming of the North Star Creamery Association, L. H. Knutson started a small gathered cream factory at his farm, which he operated until 1890, and then disposed of some of the machinery to the new Creamery Association. A. O. Storvick was engaged as the first buttermaker.

**Hayward Creamery Association.** About 1888 a gathered cream plant, the machinery being run by horsepower, was established at Hayward station by M. P. Hanson and his brother, H. P. Hanson. Several cream routes were established throughout the country and the factory was well patronized. At the end of the



first year M. P. Hanson withdrew his interest in the concern and purchased the necessary equipment for a gathered cream plant which he installed on his farm a mile and a half north of the station. That fall Mr. Hanson found that his venture had been a financial failure and several farmers of the vicinity held a meeting and organized the Hayward Farmers' Creamery Association, with Mr. Hanson in charge of the buttermaking. His machinery was used and the work carried on at his farm until the summer of 1890, when the Riceland separator creamery was started several miles north. Early in the spring of 1891 a meeting was called at the schoolhouse and the Hayward Creamery Association organized with the following officers: M. P. Hanson, president; Asle Lunde, secretary; Lars O. Braaten, treasurer; Lars O. Esse, Lars Lunde, A. Sanderson, C. Christopherson, H. C. Nelson and Martin Carey, directors. Both of the gathered cream plants were abandoned and the present building erected and well equipped and commenced taking in cream June 3, 1891. L. F. Easton was the first buttermaker in the new plant. The president is now G. A. Jackson and the secretary is M. P. Hanson. The patrons own about 675 cows. In 1910, the creamery received 2,096,950 pounds of milk and 76,801 pounds of cream. The butter made amounted to 121,041 pounds and the total received for butter during the year was \$36,478.32.

**Twin Lakes Creamery Association.** This creamery association was organized at the Twin Lakes schoolhouse August 6, 1892, and the creamery building was erected and equipped during the fall and early winter. A number of farmers and business men of the village had become interested in this movement and worked among the residents of the country near by and secured enough signers to warrant the undertaking of the organization. John Donahue presided over the first meeting and A. C. Aanerud acted as secretary. Sixty-two signers pledged 402 cows and the meeting at once elected the following officers: Paul Oppegaard, president; James McGuir, vice-president; Fred Klenke, secretary; Hugh Donahue, treasurer, and Erick Flaskerud, Nels H. Hoyne, Roger Kelly, Ara Carter and Toliff Anderson, directors. The creamery was admirably situated on the sidetrack of the M. & St. L. railroad and Frank Linderman was engaged as the first buttermaker. The creamery commenced operations January 9, 1893. It was burned in the winter of 1910-11 and has not resumed operations.

**Clover Valley Creamery Association.** As the result of several meetings held in the Pickle school house, during the spring of 1890, Clover Valley Creamery Association was organized June 2, being one of the first separator creamery organizations in the state. For several years previous to this time the farmers of Clover Valley had been patronizing gathered cream wagons sent



out from Albert Lea, Alden, and the Knudson Brothers, near Emmons, but there was a prevailing sentiment in favor of a modern separator creamery and not a dissenting vote was cast in the meeting called to establish the present creamery. The new creamery is located about a mile and a half north of Bear Lake. The building was completed during the fall of 1890 and the creamery began separating in November of that year. The officers of the organization at its beginning were Charles Radke, president; George W. Hall, vice-president; John M. Geissler, secretary; William Wohlhuter, treasurer, and H. Drommerhausen, George L. Scherb, Fred Voss, Sr., Fred Fink and Herman Klukow, directors.

**Trenton Creamery Association.** In the spring of 1895 the farmers in the vicinity of Trenton postoffice met in the Trenton school house and discussed the organizing of a modern creamery in that community. March 11, 1895, the Trenton Creamery Association was formed and steps taken at once to build and equip a plant. F. D. Drake was elected president; J. E. Hall, vice-president; C. W. Ayers, secretary; Oluf Lee, treasurer; J. W. Pierce, Fred Harrington, Joy Tellet, H. S. Weed and J. N. Wilson were made members of the board of directors. The work on the building was completed in a very short time and on May 15, 1895, the Trenton creamery was opened for business, with J. V. Carter as buttermaker. Some inconvenience and loss was occasioned the creamery by the failure of the New Richland bank in 1899, in which the creamery money was deposited. The creamery was discontinued in 1900.

**Poplar Grove Creamery.** The Poplar Grove Creamery, located at Bath, was organized in 1892. The first meeting of which the records make any mention was held in the home of M. Sheehan on January 14, and the officers elected were Ellend Erickson, president; John Sullivan, vice-president; James St. John, secretary; James Sheehan, treasurer; M. Sheehan, Thidman Bartness and Bartly White, directors. At the time of its organization, the creamery was named North Star Creamery Association, but this name was later changed to Poplar Grove. No time was lost in erecting the building, and on May 20, 1892, the creamery commenced operations with M. H. Graham as buttermaker, which position he held for three years. In the fall of the first year a feed mill was put in and operated in connection with the creamery but it was abandoned after a time. The payment for the building and equipment was completed in about four years. C. R. Sullivan, the present secretary, has proven a most painstaking and conscientious officer. The president is S. O. Nygaard. During the year 1910, the creamery received 1,251,556 pounds of milk and 85,868 pounds of cream. The butter made amounted to 82,204¾ pounds, which with sundries, brought \$24,089.43. The patrons



were paid \$21,376.96. A cement floor has been added to the creamery and a large brick smoke stack built. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 575 cows.

**Gordonsville Creamery Association.** In the spring of 1889, a year before the establishment of the creamery at Clarks Grove, the farmers and business men around Gordonsville became greatly interested in circulars sent out by the Davis Rankin Company, of Chicago, advertising creamery equipment. They wrote to this firm and an agent was sent out by the house, who called a meeting of the farmers and made arrangements for the building and equipping a creamery for the consideration of \$5,000. This arrangement was agreed upon by the farmers, and the creamery subsequently erected and fully equipped, for a gathered cream plant. The company began operations with W. H. H. Gordon, president; Gilbert Hanson, vice-president; Walt Davis, secretary; Neem Nelson, treasurer, and Herman Low, Bert and Jacob Beighley, Gilbert Hanson, Chris Nelson, Otto Forseth and Franz Davis, directors. Cream routes were soon established, one conducted by S. P. Beighley came within a mile or two of Albert Lea and at one time covered forty miles daily. After operating a few months and losing about \$2,000, the creamery burned to the ground one night. This was the end of the dairying in this vicinity for several years, but in 1894 interest was again revived and in November, 1895, the Glenville Association put in a skimming station in charge of John Buley, which continued until 1898. December 14, 1897, a meeting of the farmers was held and the equipment of the skimming station offered for sale at \$680. This was later bought for \$600 and on December 22 the organization was completed. The first officers in this association were Carl Seuser, president; Ferdinand Wolff, vice-president; William Buchanan, secretary; H. T. Toye, treasurer; Carl Waldo, G. T. Lofthus, A. J. Beighley, W. H. Stewart and Otto Low, directors. In January, 1898, the first shipment of seventeen tubs of butter was made, S. A. Brady being the buttermaker. The president of the association is A. J. Beighley, and the secretary is Ira E. Barber. In 1910 the creamery received 405,741 pounds of milk and cream. From this 56,339 pounds of butter were made. The amount received for butter, milk and cream during the year was \$22,370.65 and the patrons were paid \$17,780.07. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 375 cows.

**Newry Co-Operative Creamery Association.** This creamery association was established in 1894 and the creamery building erected in section 16, Newry township. The officers elected were David Herron, president; M. Cregan, vice-president; T. A. Herron, secretary; P. J. Gardner, treasurer; R. L. Gardner, M. Cashman and D. T. Hollywood, directors. During 1898 the creamery patrons



were paid \$16,096.96 in cash. As the creamery is located in the northeast corner of Freeborn county, it finds a convenient shipping point at Blooming Prairie. At the present time the president is B. K. Benson and the secretary is M. J. Amundsen. Last year the creamery received 1,601,680 pounds of milk and 167,973 pounds of cream. The butter made amounted to 114,043 pounds. The amount received was \$29,710.34, and of this, \$27,230.64 was paid to patrons. The patrons own about 800 cows.

**Manchester Creamery Association.** A meeting was held in E. O. Fossum's store on January 12, 1891, at Manchester station for the purpose of establishing a modern creamery at that place. Erick Jonsrud, who had assisted in the organizing of the Clarks Grove and Riceland creameries the year previous, was present and the meeting profited much by his suggestions. Nine directors were elected and organized themselves as follows: C. Flindt, president; E. Lybeck, vice-president; E. Nelson, secretary; E. O. Fossum, treasurer, and I. A. Rodsater, R. Thykeson, Ole K. Moreim, John Severson and O. J. Jordahl, directors. May 12 of this same year the creamery was completed and fully equipped and C. F. Meyer engaged as buttermaker. June 24, 1892, the creamery was destroyed by fire and an insurance of \$1,900 accepted. A meeting of the stockholders was called at once and plans made to rebuild. The building and equipment were left to the directors, and it was but a short time before the creamery was again ready for operations. This association owns what is considered one of the finest creamery buildings in the state. The building was erected in the fall of 1910. It is 32 by 84 feet, and sixteen feet high at the sides. The walls are of brick, the floor is of cement, the ceiling is of concrete and the roofing of steel. New machinery was put in, and new sheds were also built. Three months were used in erecting the building. During the nine months of operation in 1910, the creamery received 1,357,288 pounds of milk and 145,874 pounds of cream. The butter made amounted to 100,140 pounds. During the year \$29,682.54 was received for butter and \$26,692.97 paid to patrons. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 600 cows. The present officers of the association are: President, A. I. Moen; secretary, G. O. Myran; treasurer, John Severson.

**The Enterprise Co-Operative Creamery Association.** This creamery association was organized in February, 1902. Its first officers were Fred Crisman, president; L. F. Allen, vice-president; M. W. Stewart, secretary; Fred Machacek, treasurer; N. H. Nelson, A. Lang and W. H. Goslee, directors. The present officers are: F. Crisman, president; A. Bump, vice-president; M. W. Stewart, secretary; George Funda, treasurer. Since the opening of this creamery, Fred Crisman has held the office of president of



the association. The first buttermaker was A. C. Nelson, and the present man in charge of this work is Sam Nelson. This creamery has carried on a flourishing business and is now clear of debt and in a very prosperous condition, financially. It is located in London. In 1910 this creamery received 35,948 pounds of milk and 237,216 pounds of cream. The butter made amounted to 71,860 pounds. The amount paid to patrons was \$18,314.03 and the total received for butter was \$20,619.80. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own about 550 cows. Since the erection of the building, a barn 16 by 24 has been completed.

**The Freeborn County Creamery Company**, which conducts what is known as the "Centralizer," started a few years ago, in Albert Lea, and is the only creamery in the county which is not conducted on the co-operative plan. Some milk is taken in from this county, but most of it is shipped in from Iowa and Minnesota. The concern is a stock company, and no information is attainable as to the amount of business done.

**The Union Creamery Company** has a creamery in Emmons. The officers are: President, Alfred Emery; vice-president, Iver Johnson; secretary, Axel Anderson; treasurer, H. N. Rasmusson; directors, S. G. Hansey, S. L. Davidson, Louis Knudson, William Menge and L. H. Larson. This creamery does a larger business than any other creamery in the county. It has a brick building 90 by 30 by 12 feet, built in 1903 at a cost of \$8,000, and a buttermaker's house erected the same year at a cost of \$1,000. In 1910 the creamery received 3,075,269 pounds of milk and 498,800 pounds of cream. It produced 276,194 pounds of butter. Patrons were paid \$69,145.06 for milk and cream, and the total received for butter amounted to \$89,958. It is estimated that the patrons own over 1,500 cows.

**Myrtle Creamery Company.** This company conducts one of the prosperous creameries of the county, and in addition to its creamery has erected a buttermaker's house, 24 by 26 feet and 14 feet high. Peter Nelson is the president and E. E. Nelson the secretary. In 1910 the creamery received 536,621 pounds of milk and 225,850 pounds of cream. Out of this 93,884½ pounds of butter were produced. The total received for butter, milk and cream during the year was \$26,004.32, and the patrons were paid \$22,106.49. It is estimated that the patrons of this creamery own some 600 cows.

**The Conger Creamery Company** has a creamery in Conger village. Fred Miller is the president and W. H. Horning the secretary. The creamery is equipped with the latest improved machinery and does a satisfactory business. In 1910 the creamery received 2,839,683 pounds of milk and 4,892 pounds of cream. From this 132,523 pounds of butter were made. The butter



brought \$39,699.02 and the patrons were paid \$36,755.63. The creamery has about sixty-one patrons.

**Turtle Creek Cheese Company.** The Turtle Creek Cheese Company was formed in 1874 by a number of farmers living in the eastern part of the county in the townships of Oakland and Moscow. The prime movers in this organization were Granville Kearns, Steven Frisbie, James Cook, John Lacey, A. P. McBride, Jonas Haney, Jerome Rogers, John VanHouse and N. S. Hardy. During the summer of 1874 several meetings were held and Messrs. Lacey and McBride were appointed to go to Rochester and observe methods and organizations in that locality's factories. They returned with such encouraging reports that the organization known as Turtle Creek Cheese Company was at once perfected, having Steven Frisbie for president and Jerome Rogers as secretary. The first building erected across the creek in Mower county was blown down when about half completed, and the following spring another structure was erected and William Adams engaged as cheesemaker. Nine years later the factory burned down and was a total loss as there was no insurance, but a new company at once formed and a building was erected across the line and later discontinued.

**Myrtle Cheese Factory.** The Myrtle Cheese Company was organized in the spring of 1892 and that summer manufactured the first brick cheese ever made in Freeborn county. The first officers were: G. Tessman, president; A. Newman, vice-president; W. W. Galt, secretary; H. Schumacher, manager, and C. Schilling, F. W. Golnick and Carl Grube, directors.

**Alden Cheese Factory.** In the early eighties, a cheese factory was started in Alden township. The cheesemaker was Mrs. Albert Johnson and the product found a ready market in Albert Lea, Wells and Alden. Those interested were Ira Starks, Charles Fellows, Charles Johnson, William Lane and Albert Johnson.

**Live Stock Companies.** While dairying is the predominant industry in Freeborn county, considerable feeding of live stock for the market is also done, and there are a number of men in the county who deal in stock on a large scale. There are also several companies which deal in stock. Among these may be mentioned the Farmers' Mutual Live Stock Company, of Albert Lea. This company was organized in 1891, and is doing a good business among the farmers.

**Creamery Supplies.** A factor in the development of the creamery industry in the county has been the Northern Creamery Supply House. This concern was started in 1897 by E. W. Knatvold. In January, 1910, Mr. Knatvold sold out to his sons. As its name indicated, this company deals in all kinds of dairy and creamery supplies.



**Cow Testing.** With the development of scientific dairying, a few individual owners of herds in the county had private cow tests conducted. The first concerted movement toward testing of herds was made July 1, 1903. A. W. Trow took charge of the matter, the test being conducted under the direction of the Dairy and Food Department of the State of Minnesota. Those who had their herds tested at that time were: A. B. Cornice, Alden; Clayton Cottrell, Glenville; G. B. Thayer, Hayward; A. T. Budlong, Glenville; Budlong & Thorlson, Glenville; B. W. Pritchard, Glenville; T. E. Noble, Manchester, and Blackmer & Nelson, Albert Lea. This was really the beginning of cow testing in this county. With the development of the agricultural and dairy department in the Albert Lea High school, the idea of cow testing was prominently brought to the front. In November, 1910 a cow test association was organized in Albert Lea, and since then three others have been started, the four associations being under the charge of the Albert Lea High school.

**The Freeborn County Buttermakers' and Dairymen's Association** has done much toward the progress of the dairy and creamery interests of Freeborn county. Many meetings have been held, and by getting together, discussing methods and listening to experts, the members have been enabled to keep in the foremost ranks in their profession. The association was organized October 21, 1899, at the court house in Albert Lea. The first officers elected were: President, J. L. Burtiss; vice-president, G. M. Miller; secretary, E. J. Henry; treasurer, J. C. Buley. Soon afterward L. P. Lawson became president and M. Halverson secretary. Mr. Lawson, after long service, resigned March 10, 1910, and was succeeded by Erick Berglund. The present officers are: President, Erick Berglund; vice-president, T. A. Vandegrift; secretary, James Rasmussen; treasurer, E. W. Knatvold.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### THE NEWSPAPERS.

**Importance of the Newspaper—One Daily and Five Weeklies in Freeborn County—Historic Freeborn County Standard and Its Eventful Career—Times-Enterprise—Albert Lea Daily Tribune—Alden Advertiser—Glenville Progress—The Emmons Leader—Papers of Other Days—Edited by Lesley S. Whitcomb.**

The newspaper of today is the history of tomorrow. Editors seldom think they write history. Your copy of the local paper may be used to wrap the family laundry, cover the pantry shelf or be placed under the carpet. In a month from the time a newspaper is issued, it would be difficult to locate a single copy, but in the newspaper office itself, it has been preserved and placed upon file. These files become an asset of the office and increase in value as the papers become yellow with age. Here in the musty volumes is found the history of your town, your county, your state. The history of this county could not be written were it not for the records of newspaper files. The State Historical Society recognizes the value of newspaper history and a complete file of every newspaper in the state is kept by the Historical Society. Inaccurate history, do you say? Perhaps so, and yet the most accurate it is possible to get, and infinitely more nearly accurate than almost any other historical source. The editor of a newspaper not only means to get correct information, but uses the source method for every important article he prints. Each day, if he edits a daily, each week, if a weekly, his effort stands before the bar of public criticism. His critics are those intimately concerned in the articles published. They do not trust to memory, hearsay, legend or tradition. They are eye or ear witnesses or star actors in the passing drama. They surely are trustworthy critics. With them the newspaper must pass muster. If facts are not stated correctly, they are corrected. What other history could stand this crucial test? The newspaper that is not substantially accurate, cannot and does not live. Time gives authenticity. Criticism is forgotten, minor inaccuracies overlooked and the newspaper record stands as the accepted history of an event. A newspaper is not mere gossip. It is a record of passing events. Reports of buildings, new industries, biographies, social events, religious movements, births, deaths, politics, policies, honors that





H. G. DAY





come to people, crimes which blacken our record, onward and backward moves in progress, disasters, amusements, accidents, epidemics—all make up the newspaper history of a community. It is the mirror of life as it is daily lived here and now.

The newspaper is everywhere recognized as the adjunct of civilization. The new town, however far removed from the busy marts of trade, clamors for a newspaper. Never satisfied until it gets one, and never satisfied after it has one. The newspaper is the nucleus of criticism for the entire community. Everyone knows how it should be run better than the editor. Its policies and its literature are criticized and yet people want it and at heart are loyal to it, for they recognize its value. They read it and want it to push along movements they are interested in. A religious revival, county fair, market day, civic improvement measures, new policies or politicians—all need the newspaper to give them an impetus. The press must arouse the people. Through no other avenue can so many be reached. A mass meeting can touch but a mere handful compared with the numbers reached in each issue of a newspaper.

There are six newspapers in Freeborn county, one daily and five weeklies. They are: The Albert Lea "Tribune" (daily), "The Times-Enterprise," the "Freeborn County Standard," the Alden "Advertiser," the Glenville "Progress," and the Emmons "Leader."

During the pioneer period the county had but two newspapers, the "Freeborn County Standard" and the Albert Lea "Enterprise," the former having been established in 1857 and the latter first appearing in April of 1872. The "Standard" for the most of the time has advocated independent policies, with a leaning toward Democracy, while the "Enterprise" represented the Republican element.

The Albert Lea "Posten" first issued July 5, 1882, was a seven-column folio, printed in the Norwegian language. H. O. Haukness was treasurer and manager and O. J. Hagen was the editor. The "Posten" was preceded by the "Sanverke," by N. Nelson, the "Sanverke" by the "Soudre Minnesota," and before these there was the "North Star" by Jac. Ellickson and T. T. Pierce.

The "Posten" proved an uphill proposition, and while it existed nearly eight years, it was never a profitable venture and after its suspension the plant was disposed of to various parties, Simonson & Whitcomb purchasing the final remnant.

Aside from occasional campaign publications which were of necessity short lived, there were no other newspapers published in the city until the establishment of the "Freeborn County Times" by R. C. Blackmer in 1895. The "Times" was published



in six-column size, usually twelve pages, and proved a very aggressive competitor. Prior to the establishment of the "Times" H. H. Tompkins, superintendent of the Alden schools, commenced the publication of a small leaflet, containing chiefly school news. This was so well received that the publisher was encouraged to enlarge the publication and widen its scope, the result being a regular weekly newspaper, christened the "Alden Advance," the first issue occurring early in 1891. Dr. J. H. Gleason is the present owner and publisher. Besides the latter there are published in the county the Glenville "Progress," by A. G. Morgan, it being in its fourteenth year, and the Emmons "Leader," by F. W. Lovestrom, now in its tenth year. For several years prior to the spring of 1911 there was published at Hartland a bright little weekly called the "Herald," being the work of Brown Brothers. All these publications in the villages outside of Albert Lea are Republican as to politics and are important factors in the civic development of their respective communities.

The past decade has witnessed some radical changes in the newspaper situation in Albert Lea. These had their beginning with the sale by M. Halvorsen of an interest in the "Enterprise" to J. P. Hurley, during the fall of 1904. A few months later Messrs. Halvorsen & Hurley sold their business and plant to W. A. Morin and C. S. Edwards. Mr. Halvorsen never entered the newspaper field afterwards, and finally removed from Albert Lea to Silome Springs, Ark. Mr. Hurley interested outside capital to combine with him in the purchase of the "Tribune" publications, an evening daily and a semi-weekly published Tuesdays and Fridays, and which had been established a couple of years later than the "Times." At the time of its purchase the "Tribune" was owned by C. G. Edwards and edited by C. L. Luce, formerly interested in and editor of the "Enterprise." The next move was made by Morin & Edwards in consolidating the "Enterprise" with the "Times," which they purchased of Mr. Blackmer in December of 1905. Following this merger the proprietors of the "Tribune" publications and Messrs. Simonson & Whitcomb, who conducted a considerable plant doing job printing and book-binding exclusively, formed a stock company, taking over the business and plants of the two former firms, under the corporate title of the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company. Things remained in this condition from July, 1907, until August, 1910, H. G. Day, assisted by his younger son, H. Carroll, publishing the "Standard," which retained the same size and form as twenty-five years before; Morin & Edwards, incorporated as the Times-Enterprise Company, publishing the "Times-Enterprise," the former independent Democrat and the latter Republican in politics, both published weekly, on Wednesdays, and the Simonson,



Whitcomb & Hurley Company publishing the "Evening Tribune" and "Semi-Weekly Tribune." All maintained departments for job printing, and the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company, which was the better equipped plant of the three mechanically, also operated a bindery, with facilities for ruling and general blank book work. During the summer of 1910 C. S. Edwards, editor the "Times-Enterprise," received an appointment to the consular service and it was desirable on that account to make some disposition of the paper with which he was connected as Mr. Morin, the principal stockholder in the company, was not disposed to continue the publication of the paper and the operation of the office without the assistance of Mr. Edwards. Accordingly negotiations were undertaken which resulted in the forming of a third stock company consisting of the principal stockholders of the Times-Enterprise Company and the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company, to take over the combined plants and business.

The new company was chartered during the summer of 1910, as the Albert Lea Publishing Company, with an authorized capital of \$50,000, of which \$32,000 was paid in, and commenced business August 15, of the same year. The plant of the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company, which had formerly been located in the Whelan Building, at 121 North Broadway, was removed to the Morin block, on South Broadway, at the corner of College street, where the "Times-Enterprise" was at the time located, and the two already large plants were combined, giving the city and county one of the strongest newspaper and printing plants in any city of similar size in the Northwest. The location adjacent to the court house and the central part of town is ideal and the building which the company occupy was thoroughly overhauled and rebuilt to meet its needs at the time of its location there. Commodious and pleasant offices for the business department are located in front, and immediately back of these are the two linotypes, by which the composition for the combined papers is handled, and still further in the rear is located the department for handling the large job printing and blank book business. Two cylinder and six platen presses are required for the press work in this department, while two large power paper cutters, with ruling, punching, perforating and wire stitching machines serve to complete the work. The printing of the "Tribune," daily, and the "Times-Enterprise," weekly, is executed on a Duplex flat-bed perfecting press, capable of delivering over 5,000 eight-page papers per hour, folded and ready for mailing. This magnificent machine, which is operated by a ten-horse power electric motor, is located in the basement, as owing to its great



weight it is necessary that it be set upon a foundation of solid masonry.

The company has on its payroll at the present time, thirty-two persons, exclusive of the officers of the company actively interested in the conduct of the business, and the product of its presses is a most potent agency for publicity at the command of the fair city for which it is christened.

The present officers of the Albert Lea Publishing Company are S. Otis Simonson, president; L. S. Whitcomb, secretary and treasurer.

**Freeborn County Standard.** In the early part of 1857, George S. Ruble negotiated with Alf. P. Swinford and N. T. Gray to start the first Freeborn county newspaper. They arrived in March, 1857, but the first number was not issued until July 11, 1857.

On the east side of the postoffice block, second lot north of William, facing Elizabeth, is the birth-place of "The Southern Minnesota Star." On this auspicious event every street in the "village" was clothed in untrodden bluegrass, as it was a thousand years ago, though a crooked wagon track was seen on Clark street from Broadway east to the "new mill." The first lumber sawed at the mill was used in its construction. It was one and a half stories high, built and battened like a barn. Under the sledge-hammer blows of Swineford, Albert Lea's county seat prospects brightened, while a terrific howl was heard from the "Bancroft Pioneer," edited by David Blakely, who for many years was one of the editors and publishers of the "Pioneer Press" of St. Paul. Politically the "Star" was Democratic.

The "Star" glistened until the autumn of 1858, when it was removed to a small office on the southeast corner of Clark and Elizabeth street and its name changed to "Freeborn County Eagle." Isaac Botsford issued the first copy as the "Junior Eagle," but the next issue found Alf. Swineford at the helm, as editor, who continued with the paper until March, 1857, when he retired to take up newspaper work at La Crescent, Minn. Botsford edited the "Eagle" until May, 1860, when Ruble and Hooker took charge of it, changing its name to "Freeborn County Standard," and Hooker appearing as "conductor." In October, 1860, A. D. Clark, Albert Lea's first school teacher, purchased the outfit, removing it to the old Merry house. Here it remained under the management of Clark, A. B. Webber, J. C. Ross and finally passed to the possession of Wm. Morin, who issued it until July 4, 1864, when it lay idle until 1865, when it was revived by D. G. Parker, who was the first one to make it a business success. About 1882 Parker sold out to Botsford and Robinson, who conducted it but a short time, when it fell into the hands of Williams &





S. OTIS SIMONSON





Drake, and by them to its present management. Five times has the "Standard" been baptized with fire—once a total loss. First fire it met with was discovered by Martin V. Kellar while on his way to school one morning in 1867. It was the first fire ever had in Albert Lea, and consumed the old Merry house—the first house ever erected in the vicinity of Albert Lea. Its second fire was in a small office where Willard's saloon now stands, its third in a small office on West Clark, where stands the wall paper store of N. C. Nelson, its fourth in rooms over Towne's drug store, where everything was consumed—even to the old Franklin press which ought today be on exhibition at our library for future generations to view as the press that made Albert Lea the county seat. Its fifth and last fire in its quarters, over the Citizens Bank, was suffered by its present management.

Following is a correct record of the editors, owners and managers of the "Standard," and the term each was connected with the paper since it was established: The "Minnesota Star," established by Alf. P. Swineford and Nathaniel T. Gray, at Albert Lea, Freeborn county, Territory of Minnesota, July 11, 1857. Under their management until February 12, 1859. "Freeborn County Eagle," Isaac Botsford, February 12, 1859, to June 9, 1860. "Freeborn County Standard," J. B. Hooker, June 9, 1860, to October 27 1860. "Freeborn County Standard," A. D. Clark, October 27, 1860, to August 1, 1861. "Freeborn County Standard," A. B. Webber, August 1, 1861, to February 4, 1864. For three months during Mr. Webber's term John C. Ross was the publisher. The "Minnesota Star," Wm. Morin, February 4, 1864, to April 6, 1865. "Freeborn County Standard," Daniel G. Parker, April 6, 1865, to May 9, 1878. Since that the name of the paper has remained unchanged. W. W. Williams and G. F. Robinson, May 9, 1878, to February 27, 1879. W. W. Williams and F. W. Drake, February 27, 1879, to October 18, 1883. H. G. Day, October 18, 1883; yet editor. For several years Carlyle H. Day, his son, was associate editor and publisher, the two comprising the Standard Printing Company. After the latter's retirement the senior's younger son, H. Carroll Day, became, and yet is, an editor and associated in the business. "The Western Publisher" says: "When H. G. Day assumed control the 'Standard' was not a very vigorous or prosperous publication. Of course there have been some vicissitudes in Mr. Day's connection with the paper, but the application of brains and energy has triumphed, until now the 'Standard' is one of the foremost weeklies of the state. As in the case of all strong publications, there are many who cannot always agree with Mr. Day, politically, but friend or foe always respect him for his honesty and loyalty to the community."

The "**Albert Lea Enterprise**" first appeared April 25, 1872,



with James C. Hamlin, of Mason City, Iowa, as publisher. At the end of a year, S. H. Cady, of Wisconsin, came and brought a job printing outfit, and the paper then appeared as published by the Enterprise Printing Company. On September 25, 1873, Mr. Hamlin sold his interest to Mr. Cady, and on October 2 the paper came out with S. H. Cady as sole proprietor. Thus it remained until the winter of 1874-75, when Fred Cochrane became editor of the sheet. On August 26, 1875, the establishment was purchased by Marcellus Halvorsen, and in July, of 1884, a half interest in the paper was purchased by Clint L. Luce, who soon afterward took charge of the editorial work and continued in that capacity for the following fourteen years, finally selling his interest in the business to Mr. Halvorsen and his son Salsich, who came into the business at that time to take an active part. During the fall of 1904 Halvorsen sold an interest in the "Enterprise" to J. P. Hurley, who was connected with the business from that time until the paper was sold by himself and Mr. Halvorsen to W. A. Morin and C. S. Edwards, about the first of the year of 1905. After the transfer of the "Enterprise" to Morin & Edwards, the latter took charge of the editorial work. The "Enterprise" was consolidated with the "Times" December 27, 1905, Morin & Edwards purchasing the "Times" and merging the plants which were located in Mr. Morin's building at the corner of Broadway and College streets, from which location the combined papers have been published ever since. By the formation of a stock company composed of the stockholders of the two corporations owning the "Times-Enterprise" and the "Tribune" publications, daily and semi-weekly, three newspaper plants and the job printing plant, formerly operated by Simonson & Whitcomb, were united under one management and located on the ground floor and basement of the Morin block at the corner of Broadway and College street, the company being known as the Albert Lea Publishing Company.

The "**Freeborn County Times**" was established and first published November 15, 1895; Ray C. Blackmer editor, D. A. Scott associate editor. It was Republican in politics and very ably edited as well as carefully handled mechanically. By much expense and persistent effort it built up a large list, being especially strong in advocating improved methods of agriculture and dairying. Mr. Scott severed his connection with the paper after a few years, going to Oklahoma to enter the real estate business. Mr. Blackmer continued as editor and manager of the business until December 27, 1905, when he sold the entire business and plant to Morin & Edwards, who consolidated the paper with that of the "Albert Lea Enterprise."

The "**Albert Lea Evening Tribune**" was the first attempt at







LESLEY S. WHITCOMB



publishing a daily paper in Albert Lea. The first issue was dated October 15, 1897, the plant being moved from Ottumwa, Iowa, by Jennison & McClellan. E. M. Jennison was business manager; W. L. McClellan, managing editor, and T. H. Russell, city editor. The paper was a seven column folio. In spite of capable effort editorially the venture was not profitable, and on February 11, 1898, publication was suspended. Referring to its suspension the "Freeborn County Times" of February 18, 1898, has the following: "The Albert Lea Evening Tribune Company, last Friday evening, suspended the publication of the 'Albert Lea Evening Tribune' and the 'Albert Lea Semi-Weekly Tribune.' The 'Tribune' was moved here from Ottumwa last fall. Its management with true newspaper spirit, published each day a condensed report of the American Press dispatches, and the paper presented quite a metropolitan appearance. About a month ago it was thought advisable to extend the scope of the enterprise and a semi-weekly publication was commenced in connection with the daily. The territory, however, has proved too limited to support another paper, and, as was foreseen by newspaper men everywhere, and by a large percentage of our citizens, the 'Tribune' was compelled to suspend publication. Editor Jennison has gone to Fond du Lac, Wis., where he has accepted a position on the 'Daily Reporter,' a Democratic paper of that place, and Mr. McClellan will write life insurance for the Southwestern Life Insurance Company of Albert Lea. The plant will remain in the building of W. A. Morin, who has a mortgage on it, but it is not known what disposition will be made of the type and machinery."

Again, on August 5, 1898, we quote from the files of the "Times:" "The 'Albert Lea Evening Tribune' will commence publication again Monday. Rev. R. N. Joscelyn is the editor in chief, with Angus Hay as city editor. Rev. Joscelyn will continue his duties as pastor of the Methodist Church. The 'Tribune' will be the same size as formerly and Republican in politics."

After a few months Mr. Joscelyn disposed of his interest in the "Tribune" to C. G. Edwards, who conducted the management of the daily and semi-weekly issues of the "Tribune." Hay continued as editor until July 28, 1900, when he was succeeded by C. L. Luce, former editor of the "Albert Lea Enterprise." During April, 1905, the "Tribune" was sold to J. P. Hurley and F. G. Atherton, the latter residing at Osage, Iowa, the partnership being styled Hurley & Co. Mr. Luce was editor until the consolidation of the plant of Hurley & Co., with the exclusive job printing business of Simonson & Whitcomb, July 1, 1907. The combined plants were housed in the Whelan Building at 121 North Broadway. The consolidated partnerships were formed into a corporation capitalized at \$25,000, the officers being J. P.



Hurley, president and editor; F. G. Atherton, vice-president; S. O. Simonson, secretary and superintendent; L. S. Whitcomb, treasurer and business manager. The company did general publishing; job printing and book binding. The corporation was chartered as Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Co.

August 15, 1910, the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Co., with its daily and semi-weekly issues of the "Tribune," was merged with that of the "Times-Enterprise" Company, of which W. A. Morin and C. S. Edwards were the principal stockholders. The new company published the "Times-Enterprise," strong Republican weekly, being a combination of the "Albert Lea Enterprise" and the "Freeborn County Times." Both Morin and Edwards retained stock in the new company, which was incorporated for \$50,000 and called the Albert Lea Publishing Company. Officers and active stockholders were the same in the new company as of the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Co., and continued thus until October, 1911, when Simonson and Whitcomb bought the holdings of Hurley, the latter retiring from active participation in the business. In the reorganization of the business, S. O. Simonson was chosen president to succeed Mr. Hurley and L. S. Whitcomb was made secretary and treasurer. At the time of the consolidation of the "Tribune" and the "Times-Enterprise" publication of the "Semi-Weekly Tribune" was suspended and the subscribers were transferred to the lists of the "Daily Tribune" or the "Weekly Times-Enterprise." After the final consolidation a splendid new Webb perfecting press was added to the equipment as it was seen that the printing of the combined circulation was too great an undertaking for the old equipment. The Albert Lea Publishing Company is one of the strongest and best equipped newspaper plants in the state outside the larger cities. L. S. Whitcomb is at present business manager and managing editor of its papers, S. O. Simonson the superintendent of the mechanical department, C. M. Hobart editor. The "Evening Tribune" is a seven-column six or eight page paper and the "Times-Enterprise" is the same size page, twelve, fourteen or sixteen pages.

The "**Emmons Leader**" is now in its tenth volume. It is a bright, well-printed and carefully edited paper, with quite a circulation throughout the territory tributary to Emmons. The paper was started by Hans Grytdahl. Other editors have been W. Nordland, Joseph Solheim and Martin Aasgaard. The present editor, F. W. Lovestrom, is a talented editor and progressive business man, and under his able management the paper has become a model for all country journals.

The "**Alden Advance**," under the able management of J. H. Gleason, has a circulation of something like a thousand copies,



is well edited and printed and stands in high favor with its many readers. The "Advance" had its beginning with a school paper, issued by the Thompson Brothers. April 27, 1891, they issued the first number of the "Alden Advance." In 1892 the paper was sold to Glenn Howard, and he conducted it until 1909, when Mr. Gleason became editor and proprietor.

**The "Glenville Progress"** is one of the leading newspapers of the county; its sane, conservative editorial policy and liberal business policy winning much favor among its wide circle of readers. The paper was established in 1897 by Joppa & Miller and was edited by E. Joppa until 1907, when it was purchased by E. Mathiesen, who conducted the sheet until 1903, when it was sold to M. P. Fuller. June 12, 1905, the present owner, A. G. Morgan, took charge. The paper has been independent part of the time, but a larger part of its career it has been strictly Republican. The paper has progressed under its present owner and has been increased in stock, presses and type until it is admirably equipped for the field it serves.

### FORMER PAPERS.

Aside from the papers still in existence in the county, there have, at various times, been other journals, worthy of note here. Some have long since been forgotten. But the "Bancroft Pioneer" and the "Freeborn Springs (Itasca) Herald" will always be remembered for the part they took in the memorable county seat contests. It is interesting to note that two important papers, the "Rochester Post" and the "Blue Earth Post" had their birth in Freeborn county.

**The "Bancroft Pioneer."** This paper was established at Bancroft village by David Blakely, and the first number was issued October 17, 1857. So far as is known no copies of this issue have been preserved. In spite of its strenuous booming of Bancroft for county seat honors, that village was defeated in the contest of 1857, and Mr. Blakely, early in the fall of 1858, moved to Austin, where he established the "Mower County Mirror." The stereotyped caption did not arrive as soon as expected, and for several issues, the "Mower County Mirror" retained the old head of "Bancroft Pioneer." Early in the fall of 1860 the paper was moved from Austin to Rochester and the "Rochester Post" established.

**The "Freeborn Springs Herald."** During the county seat contest of 1860, Dr. A. M. Burnham, the proprietor, of Itasca, at which place the postoffice had been named Freeborn Springs, saw the necessity for a newspaper to present the claims of that village to the votes of the citizens, and accordingly started a

newspaper, with Isaac Botsford as editor. The paper was issued August 21, 1860, and continued for thirteen numbers. Several copies of this paper are preserved in the priceless files of the "Standard."

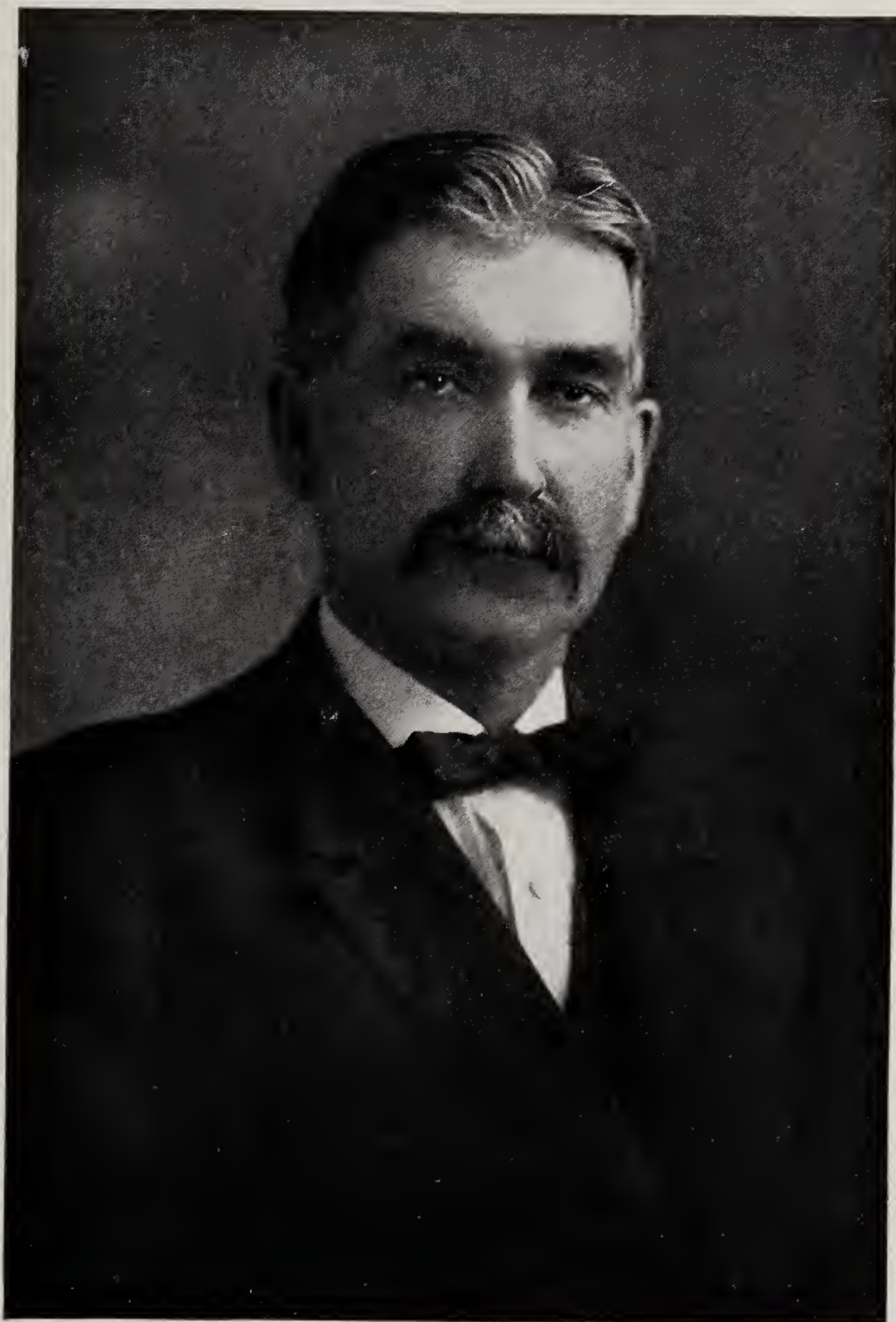
It is interesting to note that the late Dr. F. A. Blackmer was "printer's devil" in the "Herald" office. The equipment of the "Freeborn Springs Herald" was taken to Blue Earth City, and the "Blue Earth Post" established.

The "**Albert Lea Posten**," published in the Norwegian language, was first issued July 5, 1882, and continued to exist for some time. It was issued by the Albert Lea Publishing Co., the officers of which were: President, H. Erickson; vice-president, H. G. Emmons; secretary, J. P. Grinager; treasurer and general manager, H. O. Haukness; editor, O. J. Haugen. This paper followed the "Sanverke," published by the same company, with N. Nelson as editor. Before this there was the "Soudre Minnesota," issued by Peterson, Anderson & Motezfeldt, and the "North Star" issued by J. Ellickson and T. T. Pierce. All these were printed in Norwegian, except the "North Star," which was partly Norwegian and partly English.

**Other Publications.** Aside from the papers mentioned there have been other journals more or less transient, including several high school and club papers. Leonard G. Lewis attained a national reputation with his "Lewis' Lie," a literary and humorous monthly magazine. The paper met with popular favor and continued for several years. The "Hartland Herald," published by the Brown Brothers, flourished a while and did much toward assisting in the progress of that village.

Note: The history of the "Freeborn County Standard" here presented was written by Martin V. Kellar and edited by H. G. Day and H. Carroll Day. The first paragraph regarding the mission of newspapers was written by Gertrude Ellis Skinner, of Austin.





CASSIUS M. HOBART





## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### ANECDOTES AND INCIDENTS.

**Celebrations—Blizzard of 1873—Two Famous Horse Races—Some Early Deaths—Some Excellent Men—The Neutral Strip—Freeborn County Archæology—Reminiscences of Thomas R. Morgan—Reminiscences of D. W. Horning.**

**Celebrations.** Our nation's birth was not forgotten in early days. The first celebration in the county was at Albert Lea July 4, 1856, consisting only of a dance at Merry's and a flag raising. William Kellar took up a collection, and going to St. Nicholas purchased material for a large flag, which was made by Mrs. George S. Ruble and her hired girl. A good pole was cut at the rear of Judge Blackmer's residence, near Oakwood, and erected out on the smooth prairie in the middle of Broadway between William and Main. As a historical fact when the boys of Company F, Fourth Minnesota, had their first rally in 1861 they marched around this same flag and pole. Our second celebration, 1857, was only a splendid dinner served by Mrs. Daniel Hurd in her new home at 121 East Clark street. It was gotten up at the request of those living in the neighborhood.

The first general public celebration took place at Glenville in 1859. It was held beneath large oak trees that stood about sixty rods east of their beautiful cemetery on the north side of the road. The main speakers were the Rev. Stott and the Rev. Thompson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On this occasion the Albert Lea Union Sabbath School was taken down in one wagon—superintendent, teachers and scholars. Our banner, prepared by Colonel Eaton, bore this inscription: "Albert Lea Honored-Upward Sabbath School." The attendance was fully 300, some with ox teams coming eleven miles.

**Blizzard of 1873.** Old settlers delight to tell of the famous blizzard of January 7, 8 and 9, 1873. Up to January 6 the weather had been very cold, but the morning of January 7 saw a decided change and the day was warm and mild. During the morning some rain fell. Naturally the warm weather brought many of the farmers to the towns. Between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon the storm came up with a well-defined wall. The thermometer dropped some thirty or forty degrees in one minute and in as brief a time the worst blizzard known to the white settlers of Minnesota took the place of a mild and pleasant

January day. The wind from the northwest attained a velocity of some forty miles an hour, and within sixty minutes the mercury touched thirty degrees below zero. After raging for fifty-two hours, the blizzard passed away as rapidly as it came. Several people in the county perished. One woman lost her way between her house and her barn and was found frozen to death fully two miles away. In some places in the state people perished in their beds.

**“Red Eye” and “Old Tom.”** George S. Ruble, in the early days, had a famous race horse, and he knew that he could beat the earth. He had challenged the world to race with him for ten miles and repeat. The sheriff’s office was in a little shanty where the Barlow and Spicer drug store stands. Gray’s saloon was further down Broadway on the east side. Prairie grass and a few surveyor’s stakes occupied Broadway, but there was no road along that thoroughfare. Red Eye, Mr. Ruble’s horse, groomed to a finish, was out in front of the saloon, and Sheriff Heath’s “Old Tom” stood over on the corner, hitched to a one-horse wagon, half asleep, with his under lip hanging down and looking very tired and sorry. Mr. Gray said to Mr. Ruble, “Oh, pshaw, George, I’ll bet \$25 even the ‘Old Tom’ there can beat ‘Red Eye.’” The money was put up in a moment. The race was to be from a corduroy bridge across the mill race at the foot of the hill on Bridge street. The horses were to stand with their feet on the bridge and run to a certain point on Clark street. Mr. Heath led “Old Tom” over the track by a rope halter, while “Red Eye” pranced along sidewise, like the high-mettled thoroughbred that he was. Chance Haskell, a trained jockey from Wisconsin, rode “Red Eye,” wearing jockey coat and cap and riding a fancy saddle. The horses were at the score. “Old Tom” seemed to be dreaming about something as he stood there with the old rope halter around his neck and no rider on his back. “Red Eye” reared and pawed the air and was a beautiful sight. At last David Colvin whispered “Go,” and away they went. The first jump “Tom” took the lead by about forty feet and was straight ahead of “Red Eye.” By the time that they reached Stacy’s office there were several rods between them and “Tom” looked back to see if the thoroughbred was coming. As “Tom” passed the poles at the outcome, he slowed down, stuck his tail up in the air and was eating grass by the time that the thoroughbred, “Red Eye,” came out.

**“Old Tom” and “Itasca Fly.”** The Itasca statesmen knew that Albert Lea would bet her last dollar on “Old Tom” in a horse race, so they went down to Iowa and bought a horse that was supposed to be the fastest quarter horse in the North-



west. The Albert Lea men stole "Itasca Fly" out in the night and ran a trial race, and "Old Tom" beat the old mare out of her boots, so the bets were made. The Itasca people were betting on a "sure thing," and they bet all they had. A race track was made on the smooth prairie with two paths, so far apart that it was supposed that "Old Tom" could not jump across into "Fly's" tracks. The great day came. The friends of Itasca bet on "Fly" and the friends of Albert Lea bet on "Tom." This time "Old Tom" had a rider. When the word was given he made for his antagonist's track, and by the time a few rods were passed he was just ahead of the Itasca beauty; and when the end was reached, the judges gave Albert Lea the race by about forty feet. Those who had lost their money and cattle and horses and plows and chairs and pigs and chickens and knives and coats and hats and cows and guns and boats on the Itasca horse began to get tired of Itasca and its "sure thing" and voted for Albert Lea. The county seat question was settled by "Old Tom," and he deserves the credit.

Dr. Chas. W. Ballard, who was one of our old settlers, immortalized the famous race in lines, which he read at the Old Settlers' meeting in 1880. A selection follows:

So, conning o'er the aspect of the case,  
They came unanimously to this conclusion:  
That public morals required another race;  
Advantage should be taken of the delusion  
That Sheriff Heath's Red Tom could always win.  
By beating him they'd bring to dire confusion  
The folks in Albert Lea; 'twould be no sin,  
They said, to cheat those sinners,  
Especially if Itasca's men were winners.  
They'd buy Old Fly, a mare of reputation,  
Whose four white feet for years had earned the fame  
Of being the fleetest feet in all creation.  
They'd paint those feet, and then they'd change her name,  
And shave her tail, and otherwise adorn her  
Until she looked like misery's last mourner,  
And then they'd challenge Heath's Red Tom to run,  
And banter Albert Lea to betting high;  
They'd let the country people in the fun,  
And take with them all bets against Old Fly.  
They'd win that race in just a half mile heat—  
They'd bankrupt Albert Lea, and with the money  
Buy votes enough to win the county seat.

**Early Deaths.** At a reunion of the old settlers some year ago, A. H. Bartlett spoke of some of the early deaths in the county. The speech is here preserved, both for its historic value and as



an example of the style of eloquence which was then in vogue: "Mrs. Fannie Andrews, wife of William Andrews, Esq., a well-known and prominent early settler of the county, and the mother of a large family of stalwart pioneers, who accompanied her and her husband and settled in the county in July, 1855, after a brief residence of several months, living in their wagon while their habitation was being erected, was suddenly called for by the inexorable tyrant, death, and her immortal spirit, so lately filled with grand and hopeful expectations, winged its flight to its eternal home above, while the entire community, as weeping mourners, followed her earthly remains to their last resting place, the grave, to be known no more on earth, forever. The sculptured marble (now to be seen in Greenwood Cemetery, in the town of Shell Rock) has for years reared up its front, proud to perpetuate her name and virtues, and rehearse to the passing traveler that the earthly remains of death's first victim from the pioneers of Freeborn county, was here consigned to its last resting place, the tomb.

"On the third of December, 1856, William Rice, while carrying the mail across the broad and bleak prairie, lying between the Cedar and Shell Rock rivers, was caught in a severe snow storm, and lost his way. He wandered around over the trackless prairie without shelter or protection from the severity of the storm, until he froze to that extent that he died of his injuries, some three or four days afterward.

"This calamity was followed in quick succession, on the twentieth day of the same month, by Byron Packard and Charles Walker (a part of the company who laid out and founded Shell Rock City) being caught in a terrific storm on the same broad prairie, while hauling a steam boiler to its destination at Shell Rock, and both perished from the severity of the storm and the extreme cold. Their bodies, frozen stiff and cold in death, were found four days afterwards, lying upon the frozen crust of the deep snow. Their bodies were carried to Shell Rock, and there buried upon the town site they had so lately helped to lay out and form. No relatives were there to attend the funeral obsequies and mourn their sad fate, yet sorrowing friends and brother pioneers, composing the entire community, assisted in performing the last duty to the untimely departed. No preacher of the gospel could be found in the county to speak words of consolation to the sorrowing and bereaved friends and associates, and our friend, Jacob Hostetter, one of Freeborn county's earliest pioneers, feelingly and eloquently addressed the early pioneers there gathered upon the sadness and suddenness of their bereavement; upon the mysterious and inscrutable ways of an overshadowing providence, in which no



one can tell why, in the prime of vigorous and useful manhood, when hope, the ministry of life is most buoyant, and future expectations in the coming life of usefulness is most prominent, that a mysterious power should step in with its dread mandates and the brightest and most promising life should be consigned to oblivion and the grave. These sad bereavements and others which happened in the county about that time, caused by the unparalleled severity of the winter of 1856, cast a sad and sorrowing gloom over the young settlement of Freeborn county. Some few of the settlers became disheartened and discouraged and early the following spring returned to their former eastern homes."

Elias Stanton came to Freeborn Lake, probably as early as 1855. He was a bachelor, and little or nothing was known of his previous history. During the winter of 1857 he was caught in a furious snow storm and froze his feet. This, after several amputations, caused his death. He died in March, 1858, and was buried at his own request on "the school section at Albert Lea," in the vicinity of what is now the Luther Academy. There his grave was lost for many years, but bones believed to have been his were found in the spring of 1911, when excavations were being made for the new building of that institution. Stanton was an advanced thinker and requested that his tombstone should have the following inscription: "Here lies Elias Stanton, Deist." But no tombstone was ever erected to mark his grave. The people of Albert Lea made preparations for the funeral when it was learned that the remains were to be brought to that village and school was dismissed in order that the services might be held in the schoolroom. But when the remains arrived from Freeborn, twelve miles away, they were taken directly to the grave, and no opportunity given the good people of Albert Lea for the proposed observances.

**Some Excellent Men.** In a conversation recently Martin V. Kellar called to mind some of the earthly pioneers. A part of his remarks were as follows: "Perhaps one of the finest men the county has ever known was the Rev. D. H. Palmer. He came to Freeborn county as a Baptist clergyman, being sent by the American Bible Society. He lived at Glenville and preached regularly there. Later he received a regular appointment to Albert Lea. He was beloved by all, irrespective of denomination or creed. It was around his sepulcher that Western Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M. made its first public appearance with its ritual, and it was to the solemn words of the Masonic funeral service that his remains were laid away, while the county felt that it had lost a man great in faith and in works. Samuel M. Thompson was a man of pleasant address, frank and open



in conversation and manner. He was regarded as a model Christian young man; his partner LyBrand being a Unitarian, and consequently looked upon by the early settlers as not being of sound theological opinions. Jacob LyBrand was short of stature, with thin features and Roman nose. He was unusually neat of appearance, and wore gold rimmed eye glasses, keeping his clothes immaculate, although living in a community where carelessness of dress was the rule. Without being a fop, he always had the appearance of being freshly laundered and tailored, keeping clean shaved and wearing expensive broadcloth. He had uncommonly pleasant manners, was beloved by all, and made an especially good impression upon people who were contemplating taking up their homes in this county. Oliver Andrews was another pioneer greatly beloved and admired. He was a strong Methodist and worked for the progress of that church. In 1880 he moved to about ten miles south of Mason City, in Iowa, and later moved into that city, where he died some ten years ago. Peter Beighley was the first settler on the site of Gordonsville, his home being south of the village. He came to the county at an early day. His son, John, was the first mail carrier between Northwood and Albert Lea, William Rice, who was frozen to death, having been the carrier on the route from Mitchell and St. Ansgar, Iowa, to Glennville and St. Nicholas. Walter Stott was an important man in the early days. He came to Freeborn county in 1856 and settled two miles northeast of Glennville. A year later he was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, but was not authorized to perform marriages. When asked to perform this duty he sent the applicants to 'Squire Andrews, who was a justice of the peace and duly qualified to act in such cases. Stott stayed in Freeborn county a number of years, then moved to Northwood and opened a harness store. He died in 1877 at the age of fifty-three years, leaving a wife and six children. He was one of the first three assessors in Freeborn county."

**The Neutral Strip.** The boundary between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes, described in the Prairie du Chein treaty of 1825 has never been definitely settled. It was ill defined, was never traced out, and is not represented by Charles C. Royce, in his memoirs published in 1899, as a part of the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology. In the treaty this line was declared to run up the Upper Iowa river to its left fork, and up that fork to its source, thence crossing the Cedar river to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river, and in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that river to the Missouri river. This may be understood to mean: Up the Upper Iowa river (now the Oneota))



to the vicinity of Taopi, in Mower county; crossing the Cedar river a little south of Austin, and thence westward to the second fork of the Des Moines river (Beever creek), in Murray county, near Currie, and thence westward to the Big Sioux river and down that river to the Missouri. The validity of this definition between the Des Moines and the Missouri was left contingent on the assent of the Yancton band. If this is a correct placing of the line, then the boundary between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes, entered Freeborn county at the southeast corner of Oakland and left the county near the middle of the western line of Carlston township. If on the other hand the second fork of the Des Moines be understood to be at Dakotah, Humboldt county, Iowa, then the boundary would run mainly within the state of Iowa, and would not touch Freeborn county, thus leaving this county entirely in Sioux territory. The location of the Neutral Strip depends entirely on where this boundary should properly be drawn. The Sioux in the treaty of 1830 ceded a strip twenty miles wide from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, north of this boundary of 1825, and the Sacs and Foxes ceded a similar strip south of that line. If the line crossed Freeborn county, then this county lay entirely within the Neutral Strip. But Royce draws the strip to the southward in Iowa, and on Lea's map the strip also appears entirely in Iowa. The early hunters from Fort Snelling refer to the Neutral Territory as having been south of Austin and of the lakes in Freeborn county. Therefore a definition of that strip as extending along the northern boundary of Iowa seems to be as exact a description as can be reached.

**Freeborn County Archæology.** The following description of the mounds in Freeborn county appears in "The Aboriginies of Minnesota," published in 1911:

Lake Albert Lea mounds, southeast side, south half, southeast quarter, section 19, township 102-20, about twenty feet above the lake. This group contains thirteen mounds, one of which is broad-elongated, having dimensions eighty feet by forty-eight feet by six and one-half feet. The rest vary from twenty feet to forty feet in diameter. Surveyed October 18, 1889.

Northeast quarter, northwest quarter section 30, township 102-20, about twenty-five feet above the lake. This group contains seven mounds, one of which is broad-elongated, with dimensions fifty-four by thirty by three feet. Surveyed October 18, 1889.

Lake Albert Lea mounds at the outlet northeast quarter section 25, township 102-21, about twenty-five feet above the lake. This group contains twenty-two mounds, of which two



are broad-elongated and one is more simply elongated. The tumuli are generally of larger size than the average, the largest being sixty by four and one-half feet. Another is fifty-eight by six and one-half feet. Several have been excavated. Surveyed October 18, 1889.

Lake Albert Lea mounds, northwest end of lake, southeast quarter, northwest quarter section 9, township 102-21, about thirty-five feet above the lake, on cultivated land near Fountain lake. This group embraces eight simple tumuli of about average size. Surveyed October 23, 1889.

Mounds at the east end of Fountain lake, north half, southeast quarter section 9, township 102-21, about thirty feet above the lake in cultivated land. Group consists of two tumuli, each forty-five feet in diameter, one four feet and the other three feet high. Surveyed October 23, 1889.

There is a lone mound near Shell Rock river, southwest quarter, northeast quarter section 25, township 102-21, about twenty-five feet above the river, on the north side, thirty by one and one-half feet. Surveyed October 22, 1889.

Mounds in Mansfield have been noted by Dr. Warren H. Upham, northwest quarter section 13, at the south side of section 34, close to the state line. In the former place are "two or three," and in the latter place, "two or more," small mounds.

On the Gulbrandson farm near the outlet of Albert Lea lake two mounds were opened, according to the "Albert Lea Enterprise" July 10, 1879, and at five feet below the top, in a larger mound, a great number of human bones were found thrown together promiscuously. The smaller mound had two, or at the most, three skeletons in a better stage of preservation. They embraced skull, femur, fibula, and humerus, together with jaw and teeth. The skull had a low standing forehead. There were found also an imperfect flint arrow head and a sharp thin flint which might have been a knife.

T. H. Lewis collected two grooved axes in Freeborn county. Capt. A. W. White and Gilbert Gulbrandson also gathered considerable collections of prehistoric relics.

**Reminiscences of Thomas R. Morgan.** May 8, 1855, R. G. Speer, Thomas Ellis, Thomas R. Morgan and David C. Morgan, the latter twelve years old, left Union, near Mineral Point, Wis., to seek a new home in the wilderness. Ellis and young David Morgan drove the three yokes of wild steers, Speer drove two yokes of oxen, and Thomas R. Morgan drove the loose cattle. After various adventures, they reached Otranto, Iowa, and there met Messrs. Wilder and Been, both early pioneers of Mower county. These people told the party of the timber land to the west of Austin. Hanibal Bickford also met the party there



and told them that he was soon going into what is now Freeborn county to hunt. Near Austin the famous pioneer, Pinkerton, was encountered. In speaking of early days Mr. Morgan says:

“When half a mile west of Austin we met Pinkerton. He said to us, ‘Now, gentlemen, you can take your choice of all the land between here and the Blue Earth river, and from the Iowa line, thirty miles north, except one farm on the first section north of the Iowa state line, on which lives a Norwegian named Gulbrandson. I know because I have been all over the country hunting a number of times, and was with the surveyors last year when they laid out the township, range and section lines.’

“When we reached section 23, Moscow, on our westward trip, we saw a man and team ahead of us. I whistled and he stopped. His name was Nathan Hunt. He said that he had met a man named Morey going to New York state, and that he was going to some land that Morey had spoken of, some fifteen or twenty miles northwest from Austin. When he found, however, that we were going to stake out claims and go back to Austin after our families, he and his wife decided to locate in the locality we selected, so the settlement of Moscow was started with us four families. Next day we brought our things from Austin. Mr. Hunt plowed two furrows around forty acres.

“Mr. Morey passed through our settlement later with his family on his way to Geneva lake. In the winter his hay roof caught fire and this burned the family out. Mr. Carpenter took the family to Lansing through the deep snow, the cold being so intense that it froze his feet.

“During the first two winters many cattle were lost. Some lost a half, some three-quarters and some all that they had. In two years nearly all the good land was taken up, but in 1858 many left. That year was very wet and the crops were a failure. At first wheat, oats and potatoes were a dollar a bushel. Later such things were hardly to be secured at any price.

“We saw much of the Indians during the early days. They were great beggars. But there was one sure way of getting rid of them. The Sioux and the Winnebagos were enemies. When the Sioux came about we would talk about the Winnebagos that were camping nearby in large numbers, and then we would see no more of the Sioux for some time. When the Winnebagos came we told them of the large parties of Sioux in the neighborhood. Thus we got rid of some of their begging.

When the time came to prove up on our land, Robert Wilcox, Ellis and I went to Brownsville to the land office. We had



one horse and a "jumper." Two could ride in comfort. So we took turns. While one walked two would ride. The snow was so deep the horse could not run away.

The journey home was a frightful one. I left the others and expected to reach home first, on foot. At old Le Roy I stopped with Wentworth Hayes. After I left there the snow was two or three feet deep. The crust was hard in some places, but in others it broke through, making traveling very difficult. A cloudy night came on and the thermometer sank below zero. I could not distinguish any land marks, but tried to steer my course for Austin, twenty miles away. But hunger and cold told me I could not stand it. After turning back I noticed some marks in the snow which had apparently been made by snow shoes. This made me believe that there was a house near. But after going some distance, I decided that the person with the snow shoes must have gone far to the North. So I turned back, with the wind, and decided to follow the Little Cedar until I came to a house. This was fifteen miles out of my way, but it was a matter of life and death. After following the Cedar half an hour, I found a big snow drift of soft snow covering the river. I turned to go around it but went through the thin ice in water up to my neck. Then I concluded to die in the water, because then my body would be found by my relatives when the river thawed and I would not be eaten by wolves. But when the awful pains began to run up each side of my neck I changed my mind, and decided that I had rather be inside of a warm wolf. I tried hard to get out but the snow and ice would break under me. Then tearing down snow toward shore I found a willow limb. Following it up, it became large enough to draw myself out. Then what? I screamed with all my power. I could hear the echoes roll down the valley and I expected an answer, but none came. Then I talked that any one might know that it was not wolves. I said "Any one that saves my life will get eighty acres of land," but no answer came. All hope was gone, so I fell back on the last resort and called God in a loud voice (not that I thought He was deaf, but some one to hear that it was some person). I told my Maker that if He would save my life, I would stand by His teachings even if I were opposed by the whole world. I did the shouting, then rolled in the snow to absorb the water in my clothes. It soon froze. Off went my boots and socks and then I tore the shawl from my neck to wrap my feet in it. Then I got one boot on quite easy, but the other was frozen. I worked till cold sweat fell on my hands. But it was on at last. Then I walked a little ways from the creek, and passed through a grove, carrying a six-foot stick to feel my way in bad places. I wanted



to commence falling, then I would wake up and go on only to repeat the same thing many times. At last I thought I saw something that looked square, like a house, so I tried to cross the stream. There was a 15-inch space open above the running water, so I stepped back, dropped down in my ice armor and then moved to the opening and laid my stick across it. When on the stick, head on one side, feet on the other, I got a little timid, and thought my stiff clothes might drag me down 8 or 10 feet. It took a long time to back off inch by inch. Then I traveled ahead about twenty rods and came to where they watered cattle, and I stepped across the running water, then went up to a stable. There was two inches of new snow and the haystacks looked as though they had not been used lately. I opened the stable door and the warmth of the cattle settled doubt. I went in the dark between two cattle and put my arms over their back awhile and began to sleep. Then I went out for the house. It was icy, so I could not get at the door. So I got a pole at the woodpile and punched the door. A man came out, barefoot, took my hand, and led me in. He took hold of me and laid me slanting in the chair. I was going to sleep. I saw him pull out a shovel of coals and place a basin of milk on it. When it was warm he shook me and made me drink. It was the best drink of my life. He gave me dry clothes to sleep in. I slept till 9 the next morning. My clothes were dried nicely. I ask John Olson, who was the man who had received me, if the little folks there were his little children. He told me they were his brothers' children, and I learned the sad tale of his two brothers who had been frozen to death during the previous blizzard. They were driving with a load of potatoes and a yoke of oxen when the storm overtook them. One had frozen to death and the other had covered him with straw and placed the seat board in such a position that the body would be found. His own body was found a short distance away, and the oxen were found in a grove, still alive. The two widows and the young children were left to battle with pioneer life without the husbands and fathers to look after them.

I left there that morning and reached home in safety, overtaking Wilcox and Ellis and having an exciting encounter with a 'coon on the way.

As time passed settlers began to pour in. Among them may be mentioned G. W. Davis, G. W. Dearmin and Rufus H. Crum. The proprietor of Austin, Chauncey Leverich, was much opposed to having a settlement in Moscow township, and had publicly threatened that he would have the timber along Turtle creek, even if he had to kill all of us and hang our hides to the



trees. Two of our young men had built shanties in the timber and while they were away after provisions some men from Austin occupied the lands. When the young man came back they again took possession. Then we were told that a load of toughs were coming from Austin to drive us out. We gathered ready to defend ourselves, and heard the load go by. But our young men hurried to the land office and were made safe in the titles to their claims. The first preacher in Freeborn county was a young man named Sylvester N. Phelps. The next was D. D. Ingraham, both in 1856. The next minister was the Rev. S. G. Lowry, in 1857. He preached in many places and organized the first Presbyterian church in the county. The other denominations followed. Three that preached here were sent to states prison.

In 1908 I called at Adams, Mower county, to see John D. Olson, the man that helped me on that terrible night, and to talk with him after fifty-three years. I found his daughter, Mrs. Knute Gordon, and Reynold Olson, brother of the man I sought. They told me that my friend had died years ago. I stayed with them until near train time next day. That evening Mr. Gordon sat on the floor and his little children jumped at him, pushed him over and climbed over him from side to side. It took me back in memory forty years when my little ones did the same by me. Some day Mr. Gordon will realize as I do that the hours with our children are the best times of our lives. Mr. Olson and I talked of those old times. Mr. Gordon showed me the house that sheltered me that night and took me around to Adams, where we called on Mrs. Olson, the widow of John D. Olson. She showed her husband's likeness. Her maiden name was Ida Johnson, a sister of one of Mower county's sheriffs.

Thus the years are passing, and there will soon be few left to tell the joys and sorrows, the pains and pleasures, of those days when we came into the wilderness which is now so beautiful a country, and so teeming with all the blessings of life.

**Reminiscences of D. W. Horning.** D. W. Horning, a prosperous farmer of Freeborn county, had for several years a most interesting experience in the West among the Indians and the miners. In speaking of these experiences Mr. Horning says:

In the spring of 1862 I went to Ft. Snelling to haul hay for the fort. In the spring of 1863 Willard Eaton and Jack Waller and I started for Oregon with two yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows. After traveling for some weeks we joined a train of some eighty teams, and with this train we went over the Missouri river and up the Platte. After traveling about three weeks we encountered the Indians. They came up on both sides of us, but after a slight brush with them, they left us, and for the next two weeks we traveled unmolested, although they kept in sight



a larger part of the time. Then we reached a fort. The commander said that he had orders to forbid all trains proceeding further, for the Indians had been burning trains and killing people beyond the fort, and the soldiers could not go to their rescue, as there were scarcely enough in the command to protect the fort. However, we continued our journey. We had traveled but two days further when the Indians came down on us again, and held us at one point a day and a half. The fighting was not continuous, but consisted of a series of brushes, the Indians seemingly coming to try our strength from time to time and then driving out of shooting range. Evidently they found our party too large, for finally they left us, and we continued our journey, going up the Sweetwater about one hundred miles. Then we went to the Black Hills and thence to Idaho City, arriving in the fall. In the winter the city burned, and we worked the remainder of the winter building up the city. The following summer we worked in the gold mines, and in the fall Eaton and I went to Oregon and stayed all winter. There was a report that Montana was so rich that one could pick up gold anywhere, and that the mines were half a mile wide and unlimited in length. Naturally, everyone was excited to go there. Consequently a train of about 150 started for Montana, but when we reached Helena we found only three claims that were paying wages. Half of the company went back to Oregon, but the rest started prospecting for gold. We prospected a year for gold but did not find it very profitable. We lived like wild Indians, on the wild game, which was very plentiful. We had no bread of any kind. For two years I lived on this kind of fare. After mining a year I teamed from Fort Benton to Helena a year, and then decided to start prospecting again. We formed a company of eight and worked about two weeks in trying to run a cut. We thought it was rich, so we worked two months placer digging. Most of the company left us, but the two or three who remained worked a day or two longer. Then the claim began to get rich. So we went to Helena to get some more men, for it took ten men under the law to hold a mining claim of that sort. We did not put up the notice as the law required, and when we returned we found that another company was there, a thing they had a right to do under the miners' law. Then I went prospecting again. I made at one time \$15,000, but lost nearly all of it again. Then I came home through Salt Lake City, spending about two weeks in that place. Since then I have stuck to the farm.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### BENCH AND BAR.

**Henry A. Morgan Writes of Those Who Have Constituted the Courts and Legal Profession of Freeborn County—Judges Who Have Administered Equity and Justice in This County—Members of the Bar—Legal and Judicial Minds Whose Eloquence Have Been at the Disposal of Freeborn County Litigants—Other Matters—Drainage of Riceland Marsh.**

By an act of congress passed February 26, 1857, the people of the territory of Minnesota were authorized to form a constitution and state government, preparatory to admission into the Union. A constitution was formed August 29, 1857, and submitted to a vote of the people October 13, 1857, and adopted. This constitution divided the state into six judicial districts until the legislature should otherwise provide. The counties of Dakota, Goodhue, Scott, Rice, Steele, Waseca, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn were made to constitute the fifth judicial district. At the first election **Hon. N. M. Donaldson**, of Owatonna, was elected judge of the fifth judicial district and continued to preside until he was succeeded by **Hon. Samuel Lord**, of Mantorville, Dodge county, Minnesota, January 1, 1872. Judge Donaldson was regarded as a fair, candid and dignified judge and highly esteemed by all who knew him or came in contact with him. He died at Owatonna a few years after his retirement from the bench. His successor, **Hon. Samuel Lord**, was a fair, impartial and able judge and gave general satisfaction, but presided in this county only for a short time for the reason that in 1872 a new district was created composed of the counties of Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston, which became and has ever since remained the tenth judicial district. Judge Lord, however, continued as judge of the fifth district, by successive elections, up to the time of his death in 1880.

At the fall election in 1872 **Hon. Sherman Page**, of Austin, was elected judge of the tenth judicial district and served as such during the full term of six years. He was an able man, a lawyer, lacking, perhaps, judicial temperament, but his absolute honesty and integrity was never called in question. He was always bent on dispatching business and had no patience with dilatory tactics





HENRY A. MORGAN





or delay and seemed to have no comprehension between dilatory tactics and good faith grounds for delay. His idea or motto seems to have been: "The case is called—you should and must be ready—no delay will be tolerated." At any rate, his methods were called in question on the twenty-eighth of February, 1878, when impeachment proceedings were instituted against him in the legislature of Minnesota, which resulted in a trial which is part of the history of this state, and justifies no further comment in this article than the fact that he was acquitted. The charges were preferred as state, and in June the result was declared in his favor. A fair verdict, perhaps, would read that an able lawyer proved to be a failure as a judge. However, after the impeachment trial and at the following election, he was a candidate for re-election with **Hon. John Q. Farmer**, of Spring Valley, Fillmore county, as opponent. The election was characterized by partisanship and many personal animosities engendered by the taking of sides in the impeachment trial, but it must be said to the everlasting credit of the partisans that with very few and remote exceptions the hatchet was soon buried and has never since been resurrected in the judicial history of this county or district. Judge Farmer was elected and served with credit to himself and supreme satisfaction to all the people of the district, until he voluntarily retired at the end of his second term, in spite of the urgent and practically unanimous request of the bar of the district and all of the people without respect to party. It has been said that Judge Farmer was not a student. He was. He was a student of human nature; he possessed good common sense; he had a good grasp of the law; he was well equipped by experience, precept and example to perform the work imposed upon a judge on the bench and take off his coat and do the work on the farm and not only tell others how it should be done, but show them how to do it. This was Judge Farmer. He was an admirable man, loved and admired by everyone. What he did not know in the technical sense—and it must not be said with or by any certain authority that he did not possess all the technical knowledge essential to the station which he so highly adorned—he made up by the exercise of common sense and trying to reach and usually reaching the conclusion and result that what is law is justice, and what is not justice is not law, and his decisions were generally sustained by the appellate courts.

**Hon. John Whytock**, of Albert Lea, Minn., was elected to succeed Judge Farmer and served up to the time of his death. He was elected to succeed himself, but died before his new term of office was appointed to begin. He was in every sense a fair-minded judge and well equipped for the position in a legal and



intellectual sense, but owing to his imperfect hearing he always seemed to work at a disadvantage.

**Hon. Nathan Kingsley**, of Austin, Minn., was appointed by Governor Clough to succeed Judge Whytock, and by successive elections has held the position ever since. He is possessed of a keen and discriminating mind, a judicial temperament and that degree of impartiality essential to the position and the making of an ideal judge. He has served to the entire satisfaction of the bar and people of the district and has at all times been commended for his diligence and prompt disposition of all cases and matters presented to him or coming before him for judicial action.

### THE BAR.

In fairness to all and "lest we forget" we present at the out-start the names of all the attorneys of Freeborn county, from the earliest days to the present time. This list is as complete as the records and available information can make it. No effort has been spared to make it perfect. The list follows:

A. B. Webber, J. U. Perry, A. P. Swineford, D. G. Parker, E. C. Stacy, John A. Lovely, W. T. Rambush, Augustus Armstrong, James H. Parker, A. M. Tyrer, A. G. Wedge, Thomas H. Armstrong, John Whytock, John Anderson, D. R. P. Hibbs, D. F. Morgan, O. Mosness, Ira A. Town, Heman Blackmer, R. M. Palmer, W. C. McAdam, L. E. Dunn, E. A. Twitchell, W. E. Todd, Henry A. Morgan, Walter J. Trask, H. G. Day, W. M. Crane, R. S. Clements, H. C. Carlson, R. S. Farnsworth, Edwin A. Church, H. H. Dunn, John F. D. Meighen, John G. Skinner, C. E. Southwick, Clement S. Edwards, A. U. Mayland, N. E. Peterson, Augustus Armstrong, T. V. Knatvold, J. O. Peterson, E. S. Gjellum, J. C. McNerny, Wm. F. Schoregge, W. F. Stevens (all of Albert Lea) and A. H. Bartlett, Glenville, and H. B. Collins, H. G. Latourell and P. C. Cernish, Alden.

No pretense is here made of sketching biographically each member of the bar, and indeed the utter futility of such attempt must be apparent. In the first place accurate information is not available, and in the second place if it were the space required would extend this article beyond all reasonable limits. Such sketches as are here made are considered by the writer as substantially accurate.

**Augustus Armstrong, D. G. Parker, A. B. Webber, J. U. Perry** and **A. P. Swineford** appear as the first practitioners in this county, and their active career as such appears to have commenced at the September term, 1858. Law business was apparently slack, cases few and business light. While "waiting for



something to turn up" these gentlemen naturally, if not necessarily, sought other means of livelihood, and it does not appear that any one of them thereafter depended for existence upon the practice of law. Mr. Armstrong in form maintained a law office up to the time of his death, which occurred in August, 1873, but he was in no sense an active practitioner. He devoted his time and energies to real estate and to politics as a side line, and apparently made a success of both. He served terms in both branches of the legislature and left an estate that would seem to indicate that he was always "glancing ahead," instead of "looking backward," and had full faith in the future and stability of the community in which he lived. Mr. Parker was chief prosecutor in the Kreigler case, of which more extended mention is made in this history. J. U. Perry was appointed as assistant. The case was tried at Owatonna, Steele county, on change of venue, the then district attorney, Perkins, of Faribault, and D. G. Parker and J. U. Perry acting for the state. Mr. Parker was the first county attorney, but soon after the expiration of his term he retired from practice and engaged in other business and by frugality and industry accumulated a large estate, but unfortunately lost the bulk of it in later years by improvident investments in remote sections of the country, and died in Port Arthur, Texas, in 1908. **A. B. Webber** does not appear of record in any case of importance, but distinguished himself notably so as the proprietor of the old "Webber House," one of the landmarks of the city of Albert Lea, situated on the corner now occupied by the Nelson Bros. store, the remains of the old structure having been removed to give way to this modern building. **J. U. Perry** does not appear to have continued in practice any great length of time, and the only important case in which he was engaged was the Kreigler case. So far as the court records are concerned, it does not appear that he practiced law here later than 1861. **A. P. Swineford** was admitted to practice at the September term, 1858, but his name does not appear in any litigation of public importance, and he soon engaged in other work and sought other environments, and became a national figure, serving as governor of Alaska for years and in many ways distinguished himself and made a commendable record which is a matter of state and national history. **E. C. Stacy** was admitted to practice in 1859. He was a member of the constitutional convention and the first auditor of the county. He belonged to the old school of practitioners and continued for years as one of the leading lawyers of this section of the country, but quit the active court work about 1877. He was city justice of the city of Albert Lea continuously for upwards of twenty years and held that position at the time of his



death. **John A. Lovely** was admitted to the bar in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1864, came to Albert Lea in 1867. He was in partnership successively with W. T. Rambush as Lovely & Rambush and James H. Parker as Lovely & Parker, D. F. Morgan as Lovely & Morgan, D. F. Morgan and Henry A. Morgan as Lovely, Morgan & Morgan, and with Walter J. Trask as Lovely & Trask, at St. Paul, Minn., for about a year, and again with W. H. Merrick as Lovely & Merrick, at Portland, Ore., for some months, and with C. S. Edwards, as Lovely & Edwards, at Albert Lea, before going upon the supreme bench after his election in 1898. After serving on the supreme bench for the term for which he was elected he returned to Albert Lea and entered into partnership with H. H. Dunn, as Lovely & Dunn, and continued the practice of law up to the time of his last illness, which resulted in his death on the 28th of January, 1908. He was connected with many notable cases. He was in every sense a trial lawyer, an advocate of the first class, and one of the most successful practitioners in the state. **W. T. Rambush** was not a trial lawyer, but an expert abstractor, but retired from the practice of law and removed from the state about 1874 and did not resume the practice in this state thereafter. **James H. Parker** came to Albert Lea from Red Wing and entered the practice of law in 1871, and continued in the practice until the fall of 1887, when he removed to the Pacific Coast. He was recognized as one of the able lawyers of this section and commanded a lucrative practice at all times. He died at Hoquiam, Wash., in October, 1907. **A. M. Tyrer** came to Albert Lea from New York in the early seventies and entered into partnership with E. C. Stacy in the name of Stacy & Tyrer, which partnership continued until his death in June, 1880, the firm of Stacy & Tyrer being one of the well known and recognized law firms of southern Minnesota and Tyrer being one of the actual trial lawyers of this section. **A. G. Wedge** entered the arena in the late seventies and was at one time county attorney, but he was not regarded as a trial lawyer, but chiefly as a safe counselor. He was city justice of the city for some time, but removed to Becker county several years ago and now resides in Minneapolis, where he is still engaged in the practice of his profession. **Thomas H. Armstrong** came to Albert Lea from High Forest in 1874. He was admitted to the bar in Ohio in 1855. He served two terms in the lower house before coming to Albert Lea, once being speaker and one term as lieutenant governor. After removing to Albert Lea he was twice chosen to represent Freeborn county in the state senate and was a member of that body at the time of the Page impeachment trial. He never engaged in the

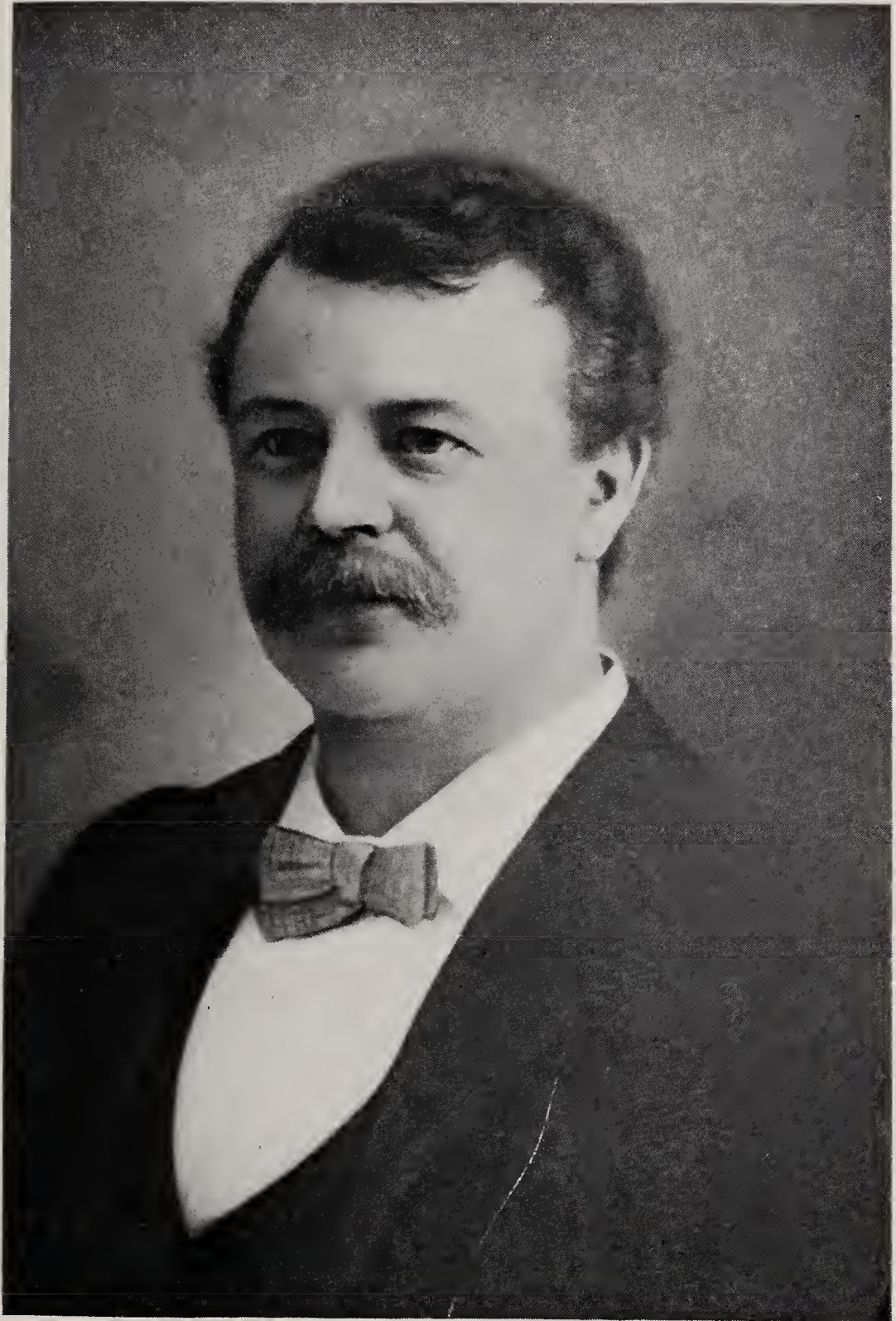


practice of law in this county, but entered the banking business, and followed that occupation continuously up to the time of his death in December, 1891. **John Whytock** came to Albert Lea in 1878 and was actively engaged in the practice of law up to the time he was elected judge of the district court, which position he occupied at the time of his death in 1898. **John Anderson** located in Albert Lea in 1878 and continued to practice law in this city until 1906, when he moved to Devils Lake, N. D. During the time he resided in Albert Lea he was city attorney and held other responsible positions. **D. R. P. Hibbs** was admitted to the bar in 1874 and practiced until 1876, when he entered into partnership with H. D. Brown in the banking business and thereafter made the banking business his chief occupation and seldom appeared in court in contested cases, although he handled, in an advisory capacity the legal interests of H. D. Brown & Co., and the different banks with which he became thereafter associated, including the Albert Lea National Bank and the Albert Lea State Bank. He died August 24, 1911. **D. F. Morgan** was admitted to the bar in 1878 and immediately entered into partnership with John A. Lovely, which partnership continued until July 1885, when the name was changed to Lovely, Morgan & Morgan, by reason of Henry A. Morgan becoming a member of the firm. Under this firm name the partnership continued until 1891, when the firm was dissolved and D. F. Morgan moved to Mankato, and from there to Minneapolis, where he continued to practice law up to the time of his death in April, 1903. He was regarded as one of the ablest lawyers in the state; was a member of the house of representatives from Freeborn county in 1889 and of the state senate from Hennepin county from 1895 to 1897. **O. Mosness** located in Albert Lea in 1879 and remained here about three years, when he removed to Moorhead and never afterward resumed the practice of law in this county. **Ira A. Town** was a product of Freeborn county and opened a law office in Albert Lea about 1878; was elected judge of probate and served one term, and shortly thereafter removed to Tacoma, Wash., where he succeeded abundantly, both as a lawyer and as an investor, but met with misfortunes, resulting from the financial panic of 1892-3, but we understand always was able to make good. **Heman Blackmer** was admitted to the bar in 1873, was elected judge of probate in 1882, and served continuously as such judge until he was succeeded by A. U. Mayland in 1909, except that W. C. McAdam was elected judge of probate and served about a year of his term, expired term. During the time mentioned he has been engaged when he resigned and Judge Blackmer was appointed for the un- in the active practice so far as his other duties would permit,



and has been connected with many cases of local importance. **R. M. Palmer** located in Albert Lea in the late seventies and was one of the recognized and promising attorneys of this section of the country and commanded a large and lucrative practice and had every promise of a successful career when he was accidentally shot in 1883 by a companion while duck hunting at Bear Lake, and died from loss of blood before medical aid was obtainable. He was at one time a member of the firm of Palmer & McAdam, W. C. McAdam being the junior member of the firm. **W. C. McAdam** came to Albert Lea from New York about 1881 and shortly afterwards entered into partnership with R. M. Palmer, which partnership continued for about a year. McAdam was a literary individual and possessed of a great deal of political ambition, but never demonstrated any marked ability as a lawyer, but was more of an essayist than lawyer. He remained here for four or five years and was elected judge of probate, but resigned before the expiration of his term and removed from the city and state and never returned to resume the practice of his profession. Heman Blackmer was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and by successive elections held the office up to the time that he was succeeded by A. U. Mayland, as before stated. **L. E. Dunn, E. A. Twitchell, E. S. Gjellum, J. F. McNerney, William Schoregge, W. F. Stevens** and **H. G. Day** are entitled to be listed among, and their several names appear among the reputable lawyers of the county, but it does not appear that any of them engaged in the trial of any cases in court, but on the contrary Mr. Dunn and Mr. Twitchell were engaged exclusively in the real estate, insurance and loan business, and Mr. Gjellum and Mr. McNerney opened an office in 1883 and retired from the business as silently as they came, and Mr. Schoregge and Mr. Stevens were engaged exclusively in the collection business and no records are available upon which to base further remark or comment. Mr. Day purchased the "Freeborn County Standard" in 1883 and has been engaged exclusively in the newspaper business ever since, although he is a recognized member of the bar of this county. **W. E. Todd** was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin; was admitted to the bar in July, 1881, and located in Albert Lea in August of the same year, when he entered into partnership with E. C. Stacy under the firm name of Stacy & Todd. This partnership lasted but a few months, when he engaged in practice as an individual and shortly afterwards entered into partnership with John Whytock, under the firm name of Whytock & Todd. This partnership continued but a short time, and after its dissolution Mr. Todd practiced alone until the fall of 1897, when he entered into partnership with H. C. Carlson, under the firm name of Todd





WILLIAM E. TODD





& Carlson, which partnership continued until his death in November, 1899. **Henry A. Morgan** was admitted to the bar in May, 1885; entered into partnership with John A. Lovely and D. F. Morgan as the firm of Lovely, Morgan & Morgan in July of the same year and continued as such until 1891, when the firm was dissolved and he continued to practice alone, except for a few months in 1892 when he was in partnership with Walter J. Trask under the firm name of Morgan & Trask, until July, 1901, when the partnership of Morgan & Meighen was formed, composed of Henry A. Morgan and John F. D. Meighen, which partnership still exists. **Walter J. Trask** came to Albert Lea from St. Paul and entered into partnership with Henry A. Morgan under the firm name of Morgan & Trask, which partnership continued for six months, when Mr. Trask moved to Becker county and from there to Los Angeles, Cal., where he continued the practice of his profession with marked success and ability until he was suddenly stricken while at work and died almost instantly in May, 1911. **W. N. Crane** was a product of Freeborn county and practiced to a limited extent in the city, but never opened an individual office. He was city attorney for a term or two, but finally moved to Minot, N. D., where he successfully engaged in the practice of law. He died in the prime of life in the year 1909. **R. S. Clements** came to to Albert Lea from Wisconsin in the early nineties and was admitted to practice, and by close attention to business built up a very promising business. He was elected county attorney in 1898 and held the office for one term, and at the expiration of the term and on account of failing health moved west and located in Idaho, where he has met with complete success. **H. C. Carlson** is another product of Freeborn county. He graduated from the George Washington University, of Washington, D. C., in October, 1897, and immediately entered into partnership with W. E. Todd under the firm name of Todd & Carlson, and continued accordingly until the death of Mr. Todd, which occurred in November, 1899. Afterwards he continued to practice alone until a partnership was formed with H. H. Dunn in 1908 under the firm name of Dunn & Carlson, which partnership now exists. He has long since been recognized as one of the able attorneys of the state and has earned and well deserves the title of a first class trial lawyer. **R. S. Farnsworth** practiced law in Albert Lea for about five years and in 1901 moved to Ogden, Utah, where he resumed the practice of law and is now located. **Edwin A. Church** came to Albert Lea from Cresco, Iowa, and entered into partnership with Warren Buel in the real estate business under the firm name of Church & Buel. His business was practically confined to real estate, and obtaining no law



practice he returned to Cresco, Iowa, within a short time. **H. H. Dunn** located in Albert Lea in January, 1899, succeeding to the law practice of John A. Lovely, who was elected justice of the supreme court in the fall of the previous year. After the retirement of Judge Lovely from the supreme bench he entered into partnership with him and the firm name was Lovely & Dunn. The business was carried on up to the time of the last illness of Judge Lovely, which resulted in his death in January, 1908. Mr. Dunn came to Albert Lea from Fairmont, Minn., where he had gained an enviable reputation and made an enviable record as a practitioner. He has always commanded an extensive and lucrative practice and is listed among the ablest attorneys of the state. He served in the senate from Watonwan and Martin counties in the session of 1907; was elected mayor of Albert Lea in 1900, and was elected to the lower branch of the legislature from Freeborn county in 1910, and elected and served as speaker of the house during the succeeding session. **John F. D. Meighen** graduated from the University of Michigan in 1900 and was admitted to the bar in Michigan the same year. In February, 1901, he located in Albert Lea and after gaining the required residence was admitted to practice in Minnesota, and in July of the same year entered into partnership with Henry A. Morgan under the firm name of Morgan & Meighen, which partnership has continued to the present time. He is recognized as one of the able attorneys of the state and one of the most prudent, studious and careful lawyers to be found anywhere, and as a counsellor his opinions are regarded as safe, sound and reliable wherever he is known. **John G. Skinner** is another Freeborn county boy and made his way and launched into the practice of law in the city of Albert Lea in 1900; was elected city attorney and served for a term or two, also serving a term as county attorney. He engaged in general practice and was connected with numerous cases of importance until he obtained an appointment as special counsel for the government in regard to land fraud cases, and as a result of such employment, requiring his attention in large sections of the west, he finally located at Helena, Mont., where he enjoys the benefit of a well earned practice. **C. E. Southwick** located in Albert Lea several years ago, but made real estate his chief business. He was city attorney for a term or two, but soon apparently abandoned the law business here and returned to his former home and has not maintained an office here for several years. **A. U. Mayland** was admitted to practice in 1895 and located in Albert Lea in 1896 and immediately entered upon the active practice of his profession and by close application, industry and honesty and demonstrated



HOWARD H. DINN







ability has built up a lucrative practice and established an enviable reputation. He served two terms as county attorney from 1901 to 1905. He was elected judge of probate in 1908, which position he now holds and has filled with marked credit to himself and general satisfaction of everybody. In January, 1909, the partnership of Mayland & Peterson was formed, consisting of A. U. Mayland and J. O. Peterson, which firm is doing a prosperous business. **N. E. Peterson** is a graduate of the George Washington University of Washington, D. C., and is another Freeborn county product. He was admitted to practice in 1903 and elected county attorney in 1906 and by successive elections has held the office and is the present county attorney of this county. He has served the county with credit to himself and distinguished ability. He is regarded as imminently fair and enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him. **Augustus Armstrong**, a son of the pioneer attorney of Freeborn county, was admitted to practice in 1900 and maintained an office and practiced law in this county for some time, but concluded to locate in the west and accordingly established himself in Seattle, Wash., where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession and now commands a prosperous and successful business in his chosen profession and calling. **T. V. Knatvold** was admitted to the bar in about 1904, and afterwards was in partnership with H. H. Dunn under the firm name of Dunn & Knatvold for some time and has since been and now is actively engaged in the practice of his profession in the city of Albert Lea and enjoys the respect and confidence of everyone. He represented Freeborn county in the state senate in the sessions of 1895-7-9 and 1901, and served with distinguished ability in that capacity. **J. O. Peterson**, present city attorney, was admitted to the bar in 1907 and located in Albert Lea in January, 1909, and entered into partnership with A. U. Mayland under the firm name of Mayland & Peterson. This firm is recognized as one of the reliable law firms of the county and Mr. Peterson is considered one of the promising attorneys of the county and regarded as trustworthy in every respect. **A. H. Bartlett**, of Glenville, and **H. B. Collins**, of Alden, were both practitioners of the old school, but seldom, if ever, appeared in district court in contested cases. They were counsellors and advisors but not trial lawyers. They neither encouraged nor discouraged strife among neighbors and friends. **H. G. Latourell** maintained an office at Alden for two or three years in the early nineties, but moved to Jackson county and has never returned to Freeborn county to resume the practice. **P. C. Cornish** maintained a law office at Alden and practiced in the county and for a number of years and engaged in the



trial of cases of local importance and demonstrated considerable ability. In 1906 he removed to Jackson county and has not since engaged in the practice of law in this county.

---

The editors feel especially fortunate in having secured as the writer of this article, one who is not only recognized as the leading attorney of Freeborn county, but one who since 1880 has been prominently identified with practically every important litigation in this part of southern Minnesota. In order that a more extended biography than he has given himself, be here preserved, the editors have secured the following sketch of his career:

**Henry A. Morgan** came to Albert Lea in 1880 as a clerk and stenographer in the law offices of Lovely & Morgan (John A. Lovely and D. F. Morgan), and studied law in that office. He was admitted to the bar in May, 1885, and in July became a member of the firm. Ever since that time he has been continuously engaged in active practice as a lawyer at Albert Lea. During 1889-1890 he was city attorney at Albert Lea and from 1891 to 1899 the county attorney of Freeborn county. An excellent memory, an alert mind and an aggressive and essentially masculine make-up rendered him unusually successful as a prosecutor. From 1901 to the present time he has been in partnership with John F. D. Meighen, under the firm name of Morgan & Meighen. His practice has been general, ranging from the inferior courts to the United States Supreme Court, but its heavy and exacting requirements have never marred his companionable disposition, deadened the ringing tones of his powerful voice or injured his ability to tell an apt story. He is an active member of the State Bar Association, and also a member of the National Bar Association. Few present day lawyers have had more part in forming the statute law of Minnesota. Not only during his term as state senator (1903-1907), but ever since first entering the profession, he has taken active part in formulating measures that have been incorporated into the settled law of the state. Matters of game legislation, drainage legislation and court procedure have received his especial attention. In 1889, when city attorney, he drafted a city charter for the city of Albert Lea, known by lawyers as Chapter 10 of the Special Laws of Minnesota, 1889. This directed his attention to the question of municipal charters and local self government. As soon as the constitutional amendment permitting home rule charters in Minnesota was adopted, in 1898, Mr. Morgan commenced urging the appointment of a charter commission to draft a home rule char-



ter for the city of Albert Lea. This was done and he became an active and efficient member of the commission which drafted the charter adopted in 1902 by the voters and still in force. The provisions therein with reference to local improvements and franchises were nearly all prepared by him. At the time of its adoption he was mayor of the city of Albert Lea and his official certificate as such appears attached to the original duplicate copies of the charter filed as required by the state constitution in the office of the secretary of state and in the office of the city clerk. Ever since that time he has taken an active interest in the amendments that have been made and is now president of the charter commission. Henry Augustus Morgan was born in Clarinda, Page county, Iowa, March 14, 1863, son of Harley Morgan and Ruth Dupray Morgan, his wife, both of Vermont, and descended from original Welch and Huguenot stock. He received his early education in the graded schools of Hesper, Iowa, and in the Albert Lea high school, from which he graduated in 1882. As already related he has devoted his life to the practice of law. He has been a director in the Albert Lea State Bank since its organization. Fraternally he was a charter member of the local Knights of Pythias Lodge, and he also belongs to the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery of the Masonic body, as well as to the Royal Arcanum. For the past twenty-five years he has been a leading spirit in all organizations for the betterment of civic and business conditions, being at present a member of the Business Men's League. September 1, 1886, he married Helen A. Hall, daughter of Albert and Anna P. (Parker) Hall, natives of Maine, and this union has been blessed with two children: Philip, who died when 7 years of age, and Barbara J.

---

### THE DRAINAGE OF THE RICELAND MARSH.

At the county fair in September, 1910, a crowd of spectators was ever present about one of the exhibits. The flax, corn, sugar beets, beans, potatoes and other vegetables composing it were excellent specimens and attractive in themselves, but the particular object most viewed was a large placard announcing that the entire exhibit had been grown by C. U. Christensen, a farmer of Riceland Township, in the bed of Rice Lake, where up to the year before the musk rats and wild ducks had ruled for centuries. Then, too, the news was being passed about that P. D. McMillen was about to market \$12,000 worth of flax raised that year on 200 acres of the marsh land east of Rice Lake. For years



conservatives had insisted' that Rice Lake with the surrounding Geneva-Riceland-Moscow<sup>186</sup> marsh could never be successfully drained. Here was the concrete answer.

Prior to 1901 the drainage laws of Minnesota were somewhat meager, but in that year the legislature provided a complete system for ditches to be built under the direction of the public authorities at the cost of the benefited lands. In the towns of Geneva, Riceland and Moscow was a marsh of some 15,000 acres, useless except during unusually dry seasons. A large portion of this was owned by P. D. McMillen, of Minneapolis, and by Mrs. Mary J. Barber and B. H. Barber, both of Polo, Ill., who had, during prior years, carefully investigated the drainage problem and fully satisfied themselves that it was practical to turn this marsh land into the best of farm land.

On September 26, 1901, a petition headed by the signature of Kenneth MacRae and signed by several land owners was filed in the county auditor's office initiating the drainage proceeding known as County Ditch No. 2, and asking for the appointment of an engineer and viewers. Protests arose from nearly every corner of the county and the county commissioners who were to hear and pass upon the petition were deluged with objections. A citizen of Twin Lakes asserted in a newspaper communication that the drainage of our marshes would diminish the rainfall and make Freeborn county a desert. Today, after the lapse of ten years, most of these objections seem highly amusing, but at that time they were seriously urged. On March 11, 1902, at the annual town meeting in Carlston it was "On motion resolved, by a unanimous vote of the legal voters of said town of Carlston, that we are opposed to the county commissioners letting the contract for draining Rice Lake and big swamps in the county of Freeborn." On the same day the voters of the town of Hayward, by a solemn resolution in writing made known "That we are opposed to bonding said county for any private enterprise whatever and that we are opposed to bonding said county for the purpose of draining what is known as Rice Lake in said county, and if the county commissioners of said county grant the petition for draining said Rice Lake, we condemn such action." In the town of Manchester on that town meeting day, lengthy resolutions were adopted urgently requesting the county commissioners "To do all in their power to prevent the construction of said ditch and thereby save the county from expensive litigation and burdensome taxes" and setting forth that the proposed ditch would solely and alone redound to the gain of private individuals. One taxpayer in Alden filed his individual written protest and recited as his objection that "It will be only the



beginning of similar propositions, as there is hardly a township in the county but that will petition your honorable board for the establishing of a drain within its borders." In Albert Lea Township fifty-seven of the leading freeholders petitioned the county board "That you cease all efforts to ditch what is known as the Riceland Marsh and we hereby protest against such ditching as being unwise and unjust. We feel that it is not wise to loan public credit for the exclusive benefit of a few speculators who hope to enhance the value of their nearly worthless lands by the aid only of public works. We feel it is very unjust to entail a lien on our property without our consent. That to bond our county, as will be necessary, the financial world will look with suspicion on all municipal loans offered from this county." In the town of Mansfield a resolution was adopted at that same spring town meeting in these words: "Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners is about to bond the county of Freeborn for the purpose of draining private lands; therefore we legal voters in the town of Mansfield, in annual meeting assembled, do hereby protest against, and object to, such action." Sixty-eight taxpayers of Bancroft filed a written protest, saying: "Our opposition is based on our belief that the damages caused by its construction will be greater than the benefits accruing therefrom and that in many respects the ditch is impracticable. The present population of Freeborn county is not in need of more lands to till, but in need of more laborers to till the present area of land that is fit for cultivation. That will be a great damage to the towns through which the ditch will pass, as it will be necessary for them to tax themselves to the utmost limits of the law in order to build roads and maintain bridges across the ditches, and considering the character of the soil these roads will be a perpetual annoyance and expense and will require, to a great extent, aid from the county." In the town of Alden a resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the electors at the annual town meeting and to make it even more forceful seventy-one taxpayers affixed their signatures thereto. It petitioned "against the issue of bonds or the assuming of any obligation whatever in regard to the construction of any ditch under the drainage laws of Minnesota, and do hereby respectfully ask that your honorable board refuse the prayer of the petition before you regarding the construction of the same. And in case any litigation might arise from your refusal to grant said petition we do hereby declare that we will cheerfully pay our respective share of whatever expense may accrue from such action on said petition." In passing it may be remarked that although the county records show that considerable expense resulted from the



refusal to grant the petition, the records do not indicate any especial activity in the town of Alden toward sharing payment of such expenses. In Shell Rock the vote stood forty-two to nothing in favor of a motion unanimously opposing the bonding of the county for drainage purposes. Pickerel Lake likewise registered its vigorous opposition. The feeling of many was expressed by an attorney for the county who said in argument: "The 1901 law was boodled and lobbied through that body—the legislature. Old McMillen's boast and brag was, 'I have got a law now so that you have got to lay that ditch.' \* \* \* There is not a sensible minded person in Freeborn county who is not opposed to that ditch. \* \* \* The 1902 amendment denying appeal from an order laying a ditch is corrupt, venal legislation." Much of the same state of mind existed in the town of London, where it was resolved, "That the town of London protest against the construction of the proposed Riceland-Moscow ditch (*and that there be a few cuss words interlined for them that favor it*)."

One of the viewers, T. P. Jensen, a shoe merchant residing in the city of Albert Lea, reported favorably to the proposed ditch. He estimated the total benefits at \$255,692.50 and the total of construction, including damages for right of way, at \$150,734.80. The other two viewers were both farmers and reported that the benefits would be far less than the cost of construction, and that the construction of the ditch was impracticable. At the final hearing before the Board of County Commissioners it was seriously urged that such large deposits of quicksand existed that the ditch could not be constructed, and by a vote of four to one the county board turned down the petition, A. G. Brundin, the city member, being the only commissioner who voted "aye."

Land owners owning approximately 75 per cent of the benefited lands appealed to the District Court. Judge Kingsley granted a motion to dismiss the appeal in January, 1904, but in July, 1904, the Supreme Court reversed his decision and ordered a trial, which was had in January, 1905, Judge O. B. Lewis, of Ramsey county, acting as the trial judge. The county board headed the fight against the ditch and employed attorneys to assist the county attorney in defending their action. Many legal questions were raised, but the trial came to an end because it was discovered that in the printing of the second notice the names of certain land owners had been omitted.

In January, 1906, a new petition, headed by Hans J. Eid and signed wholly by local men, was filed. It had been circulated by Lewis A. Brown, of the city of Albert Lea. This time the proceeding was known as Judicial Ditch No. 1. The intervening



years had educated the public greatly on the question of ditches. Many of the most active opponents had been converted into equally active friends. A number of the legal questions had been removed by amendments to the drainage law during the session of 1905. The objections from Mower county were obviated by extending the ditch over two miles further down the line of Turtle Creek. The fears that it would drain Geneva Lake were obviated by providing for retaining works at the outlet of the lake. The second proceeding was addressed directly to the judge of the District Court and did not come before the county-commissioners for action. No particular opposition was made and the proceeding had only the usual incidents of work of such magnitude. Pursuant to the order of the court, made in March, 1907, establishing the ditch the contract was let on April 4, 1907, and the ditch was built during the years 1907-1908 and 1909.

The number of cubic yards in the ditch as finally constructed was 1,739,799; the yardage in the original proceeding, County Ditch No. 2, was 1,333,497. The increase in yardage resulted from the extension of the main line into Mower county.

Particular credit for this magnificent public improvement is due to B. H. Barber, of Polo, Ill., and to P. D. McMillen. The faith of the former in the ultimate success of the enterprise is well illustrated in a communication sent by him to the county board March 23, 1903, in which he offers to give bond to pay all his assessments as rapidly as they become due, regardless of whether or not the drainage system is a success, and further offers to purchase any and all lands of reliction lying within the meander line of Rice Lake that may be sold for non-payment of the assessments against them. Mr. McMillen's farm has become one of the prize farms of southern Minnesota; its subsoil of fuller's earth has attracted wide attention and many of the leading agricultural experts of the county have visited it and praised its marvelous productive power. The much talked of beds of quicksand never stopped the course of ditch construction. No lands assessed have ever been sold for non-payment of assessments; the financial credit of the county has not been injured and the many objections have faded into nothingness.

The bottom width of the ditch as constructed runs from six feet in width on one lateral branch to sixty feet in width for the last 15,600 feet of the main line. The main line is 93,500 feet in length. There are nine lateral branches, the shortest being 1,200 feet long and the longest 20,500 feet long. The fall for the first 8,000 feet is 3.69 feet per mile and for the balance of the main line 9.5 inches per mile.

Any account of this undertaking, which added twenty-four

sections of most fertile soil to Freeborn county, would be incomplete without mention of drainage engineer J. W. Dappert, of Taylorville, Ill., who after an exhaustive study of this marsh area in different seasons made the plans and specifications for this successful project; Frank H. Fisk, who acted as assistant engineer; John Frank, of LeRoy township in Mower county; W. H. Miller, of Freeborn township, and John Bergeson, of London township, who composed the board of viewers, each deserve great credit for their respective labors toward the same end.

[NOTE.—This able article on The Drainage of Riceland Marsh was prepared by John F. D. Meighen, of the firm of Morgan & Meighen, attorneys, who have been prominently identified with the legal and statutory aspects of the drainage ditch proposition.]







AUGUSTUS ARMSTRONG





MRS. MARY F. ARMSTRONG





## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW.

**Sketches of the Leading Men of the County—Lives of Those Who Have Helped to Make the County What It Is Today—Incidents in the Lives of the Early Settlers—Tales of Success and Achievement.**

In this chapter it has been the aim of the publishers to present in concise form, the salient facts in the lives of the leading men of the county, past and present, as a supplement to the historical chapters which appear on previous pages. The story of toil and sacrifice, of small beginnings and ultimate success, of earnest endeavor and successful accomplishment, as told in these biographies, is a most interesting one, and cannot fail to prove an inspiration to those of the younger generation who read here what their parents and forebears have accomplished.

This material has been gathered with care, the compilers having visited thousands of homes in the county and interviewed many people. All the sketches have been submitted to those they most concern, and with a few exceptions have been carefully revised either by the subject of the sketch himself, or by those he has left behind. In the case of errors, those who have refused to revise the sketches of themselves and families are responsible.

The personal estimates of men and events which appear in these memoirs are the work of the editors. The facts have been furnished by the people of the county, and as it is obviously impossible to follow through each man's life from the official records, the publishers take no responsibility as to the facts contained in this chapter, although great care has been exercised, and it is believed that as great a degree of accuracy as possible has been reached.

**Augustus Armstrong** was born on a farm near Milan, Ohio, March 29, 1834. His parents were Augustus S. Armstrong and Phebe H. Armstrong, and his paternal grandfather, Edward Armstrong, was a citizen of Rhode Island, to which colony, preceding the War of the Revolution, his ancestors had emigrated from Ireland.

Augustus Armstrong was the third of a remarkable quartet of brothers who were prominent as makers of history in the pioneer period of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Thomas Henry, the oldest brother, was a lawyer who in 1855 located at High Forest, Olmstead county, Minnesota. He moved to Albert Lea in 1874, where he founded the Freeborn County Bank, which he owned and managed until his death in 1891. He was a member of the house of representatives in 1864. The next year he was re-elected and was chosen by that body, without opposition, as the speaker of the house. In 1874 he was elected to the state senate from Freeborn county and was re-elected for the succeeding term. In 1866 he was elected lieutenant governor and served as such and as president of the senate for four years.

Moses Kimball, the second brother, was one of the pioneers of Dakota. He was a surveyor and a lawyer, making in the sixties extensive surveys for the United States government in the territory of Dakota, which at that time included, besides the Dakotas, what is now Montana and the eastern part of Idaho. This brother was a member of the first Dakota territorial legislature, being speaker of the house in 1863, and during 1872-1874 was in congress as the delegate from Dakota. He is the author of two very interesting books—"The Early History of Dakota Territory," published in 1866, and "The Early Empire Builders of the Great West," published in 1901. He died at Albert Lea in 1906.

Edward G., the fourth brother, was a pioneer of Minnesota and Dakota. He served with the Union forces in the War of the Rebellion and was severely wounded. After the war he was engaged in the real estate business in Olmstead county, where he died in 1911. He was an eloquent public speaker and was conceded by his brothers to be the orator of the family.

Augustus Armstrong, during his early boyhood on the Milan farm, attended Huron Institute, where he prepared himself for Antioch College, which latter institution he entered in 1855. At that time Horace Mann, lawyer, statesman, educational reformer, philanthropist and the father of the public school system as it exists today in the United States, was the president of Antioch College. He probably never had a student who was more moulded by his genius than was his pupil from the Milan farm. Mr. Armstrong, upon leaving college, was fortunate also to have the privilege of studying law under Judge Taylor, of Milan, after which he finished his legal studies at the Cincinnati Law School, where in 1856 he was admitted to the bar. In the spring of 1857 he walked from High Forest into Freeborn county with a surveyor's instrument on his shoulder and \$5 in his pocket and decided to make Albert Lea his future home. Here he hung out



the traditional shingle, but there being comparatively little legal business for lawyers in Albert Lea at that early day, he worked at surveying until July, when he was appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court the first clerk of the court for Freeborn county. At about the same time he was also appointed postmaster at Albert Lea. In the January following he was appointed deputy county treasurer by Henry King and had entire charge of the treasurer's office for the two ensuing years. During these early days he was at one time justice of the peace; at another he was chairman of the board of supervisors. Although in politics Mr. Armstrong had been a Democrat, he, with thousands holding views similar to his before the war, soon joined the new Republican party. He was a staunch supporter of Lincoln, after the firing upon Fort Sumter. For his valuable services in raising troops throughout the state and otherwise aiding the cause of the Union, Mr. Armstrong was honored by General U. S. Grant, when he became president. In 1860 Mr. Armstrong was one of the attorneys for the defendant in the case of the State vs. Henry Kreigler, for the murder of a Mr. Broughton near Bear Lake. The defense was insanity, but Kreigler was found guilty by the jury, and was hung March 1, 1861, on the knoll just northwest of where Broadway and the C., M. & St. P. railroad intersect. Kreigler was the first person tried and hung under the laws of the new state of Minnesota, and it is surprising to find how strong the tradition is among the old settlers that the practical jurymen of 1860 considered that it would be more economical for the county to bury Kreigler than to support and care for him the rest of his natural life.

Mr. Armstrong was married October 10, 1861, to Mary Felicia Clark Wedge, the widow of Lucius P. Wedge, who had come to Albert Lea in 1857 and bought that part of the townsite lying west of Broadway. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong: Mary Augusta, who married Rev. Henry J. Petrand and who with her mother now occupies the paternal homestead on Fountain street at the head of St. Marys street; and Augustus, Jr., an attorney of Seattle, Wash., who was born in 1871, upon his father's birthday, and who was in 1901-1902 president of the city council of Albert Lea and until recently was the United States commissioner for the western district of Washington.

Augustus Armstrong, Sr., was the attorney for Freeborn county from 1862 to 1865. In 1865 he was elected to represent the county in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature and in the following year he was elected to the state senate by the sixteenth district, which at that time included the counties of Freeborn, Steele and Waseca. The office of senator being held in rotation by the three counties just named, he was, after the ex-



piration of his term as senator, again elected by his county to the house of representatives. He was among the first to conceive the idea of bringing the railroads under proper control as part of the public highways of the nation. A bill which he championed with especial zeal was one to compel the Southern Minnesota Railroad, then in process of building east from La Crosse, to touch the important towns along its projected route. While he was not as successful as he had hoped to be, yet it was due to his indefatigable exertions that the first railroad into our county was built through the county seat instead of leaving it several miles to one side and establishing a rival town in the interest of one of its townsite companies. The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company did succeed, however, in locating its right of way through the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower and Faribault without touching their county seats. In April, 1869, Mr. Armstrong was appointed by President U. S. Grant the United States marshal for the district of Minnesota, which important position he held until the year of his death.

The first church built in Albert Lea was the old Presbyterian church that stood upon the corner of Water and St. Marys streets until the present edifice was erected. One of the public enterprises upon which Mr. Armstrong entered with his usual zeal and ability was the project of building the old Presbyterian church just referred to. He worked up the subscriptions, leading with a thousand dollars himself, contracted for the mechanics and the material and superintended the construction. He manifested his belief in the Christian religion by a punctual attendance upon church services, by liberal contributions towards the support of the church, and by acting as one of the trustees.

On August 18, 1873, while with his wife visiting relatives at Delavan, Wis., he was attacked by a mild form of typhoid fever which, on account of the ignorant treatment of the disease common to the times, proved fatal. He was honored by the officials of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, who provided a special train to bring his remains over their line to Albert Lea.

As a lawyer Mr. Armstrong endeavored to settle disputes and differences rather than to foment them. He enjoyed telling of impending divorce cases amicably adjusted in his office. The writer well remembers hearing, years after Mr. Armstrong's death, different persons tell of his adjusting neighborhood quarrels that were fast ripening into bitter feuds. As a public man he earned his popularity by his enthusiastic devotion to the public good, which was so well understood that, in his later years, his candidacy for the highest offices of his county was without opposing nominations.

This sketch of a short but active and useful career is written



by his stepson, Clarence Wedge, who has carried with him as an ever present inspiration the memory of a character not only rich in manly virtues, but full of such large-hearted kindness as to shed a joy and a benediction upon the family and the neighborhood.

**Lucius P. Wedge**, the third child of Salmon P. and Fanny (Colman) Wedge, was born in Copenhagen, Lewis county, New York, May 13, 1823. He was descended from English stock who settled in Warren, Litchfield county, Connecticut, one branch of which had moved to northern New York. At the age of twenty-five he came west with his father's family and pre-empted land in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, in a locality that was named for them Wedge's Prairie. He was married February 13, 1854, to Mary Felicia Clark, of Johnstown, Wis., and their only child, Clarence, was born in 1856. Having received what was then regarded as an unusually good offer for his farm of 200 acres he sold it for \$6,000 and came out to Minnesota to invest the money in real estate. After looking over Faribault and Owatonna he came to Albert Lea and in November, 1856, bought of Lorenzo Merry, for \$2,500, that part of the original townsite of Albert Lea lying west of Broadway, and entered with enthusiasm into the project of making this city the chief town of this part of the state. Recognizing the immediate need of hotel accommodations he bought the timber and arranged for sawing of the lumber that was afterwards used in the construction of what was later known as the Webber House. Returning to Wisconsin in the spring he planned to bring out his personal property and to encourage his acquaintances to join in his new enterprise. He was prevented from returning by failing health, and after a year spent in pursuit of physical relief he died in New York city August 31, 1858. Although his entire residence in Albert Lea was only three months, he gave a great impetus to the growth of the embryo town. He was the means of bringing to Albert Lea his brother-in-law, A. D. Clark, who became the first school teacher, and editor of the first paper; his nephew, Dr. A. C. Wedge, the well known physician; and his niece, Margaret Wedge, who became Mrs. Wm. Morin. In June, 1859, his widow came to Albert Lea with their little son and from that time both have made this place their home.

**Albert Clark Wedge**, of Albert Lea, pioneer settler and for nearly fifty years the leading physician of Freeborn county, was born in Lewis county, New York, August 18, 1834, son of Rev. Albert and Elizabeth (Clark) Wedge. He is descended from a family of old Puritan stock, prominent in the early history of New England. Thomas Wedge, the founder of the family in America, settled in Litchfield, Conn., at an early day, and five



of his descendants were patriot soldiers in the Revolution. The doctor's grandfather, Solomon Wedge, moved to New York state at the beginning of the nineteenth century and settled on a farm in Lewis county. He was a member of the New York militia and took a part in the War of 1812. His sister married William Grant, of Litchfield, Conn., a member of the family of the ancestors of Gen. U. S. Grant, and in 1835 their son, Asahel Wedge Grant, was the first to respond to the call of the Congregational Society of Foreign Missions for medical missionaries to the Nestorians of Persia. He spent several years in missionary work in Asia and died at Mosul, Turkey, where he lies buried by the River Tigris, near the site of ancient Ninevah. Albert Wedge, the father of Dr. A. C. Wedge, was born in Connecticut in 1808, of a family of eight children. He was educated for the ministry at Hamilton College, New York, and in 1839 removed with his family to southern Ohio, where he was engaged in missionary work. His wife died at Hillsboro, Ohio, in 1840, when his son, Albert C., was only six years old. In 1847, after eight years' service in Ohio, the father removed with his five children to a farm near Pendleton, Madison county, Indiana, where he remained for three years. He then went to Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, for a visit, where his father and brothers were then residents, at a place called Wedge Prairie. Here he died in 1851, and with his wife, who died in Ohio, now rests in the family burial plot at that place. After the father's death the family, then living in Indiana, was broken up and Albert went to Wedge Prairie to live with his uncle. He attended the common schools, worked on his uncle's farm and taught country school. In 1854 he entered what is now Ripon College as a student and remained there three years, after which he studied medicine with Dr. J. Rodgers at Ripon and later attended the Cleveland (Ohio) Medical College, from which he graduated in February, 1857. After graduation he returned to Wisconsin, expecting to locate in Ripon and practice his chosen profession with his preceptor, but one of his uncles, Lucius P. Wedge, had been to Minnesota and acquired property at Albert Lea. Through his uncle's persuasion the young physician concluded to locate in Minnesota. His uncle supplied him with money, provisions, a span of horses and a covered wagon, and in May, 1857, he drove to Albert Lea, which at that time consisted of a cluster of four or five log houses and about thirty inhabitants. Here he put up a frame building for an office, hung out his sign, and was ready to prescribe for any who might need his services. At first there was not much for him to do in a professional way, but he pre-empted land and took an active part in the building up of the new community. As the town prospered and the country settled up his business



increased and for nearly fifty years he continued in active practice except for short periods when he was engaged in public service. When the township was organized, in 1858, he was elected chairman of the first board of supervisors and subsequently held the position for several years. Dr. Wedge was commissioned, May 2, 1862, assistant surgeon of the Third regiment, Minnesota volunteer infantry, and joined his command at Murfreesboro, Tenn., in May, 1862. On July 13 he participated in the battle of Murfreesboro, in which the regiment was surrendered to the enemy by the colonel in command. Dr. Wedge remained for a time in the hospital at Murfreesboro helping to care for the wounded, then went to Nashville and was on duty in the general hospital for several months. His regiment having been exchanged, he joined it again at Cairo and went with it on the campaign through Kentucky and Tennessee, joining General Grant's main army at the investment and capture of Vicksburg. September 22, 1863, he was commissioned surgeon with the rank of major. He was with General Steele's forces in the expedition to capture Little Rock, and in all the battles connected with the campaign in Arkansas in 1864-65 until the close of the war, when he was mustered out with his regiment in September, 1865, at Devall's Bluff, Ark. Dr. Wedge was very efficient and faithful as a surgeon at all times, and had the fullest confidence of the officers and men to whom he ministered. He performed especially notable service for the Third regiment during its stay at Pine Bluff, Ark., in the spring and summer of 1864. The regiment was encamped in a swampy, unhealthy locality, and a violent epidemic of malarial fever broke out. The result was as tragically disastrous as though the men had been engaged in battle every day. A large majority were stricken down. From May to August fully 150 died. The doctor labored incessantly and but for his care and skill many more would have perished. He was without proper medical supplies, but did the best he could. When at last he was prostrated, he could not obtain even a dose of quinine for himself. On August 1 he was relieved from duty and returned with the six companies of re-enlisted men to Minnesota, or perhaps he too would have been a victim of the fever. After his discharge from the army Dr. Wedge returned to his home in Albert Lea and resumed his practice. He served in the lower house of the state legislature in 1870-71, and as state senator in 1879-80. He resigned the office of senator in 1881 to take the position of collector of internal revenue under an appointment by President Garfield. In this office he served two years under President Arthur's administration. He has also served on many state boards. He was a member of the Republican national convention of 1880 that nominated Garfield for president. While in the legislature he



was chairman of the committee on railroads, and of the state prison investigation committee. He has always been a Republican in politics and has taken an active part in all national elections, keeping well informed on local, state and national politics. He was chairman of the Republican congressional committee of his district one year, and for several years chairman of the county committee. He was a member of Governor Merriam's military staff and also of Governor Nelson's, as assistant surgeon general. He was appointed by Governor McGill a member of the state medical examining board, on which he served for four years, being president of the board for one year. In 1880 he was president of the State Medical Society, and for some time was president of the Albert Lea Central Medical Society. He is now a member of the American Medical Association, the Freeborn County Medical Association and of the International Association of Railroad Surgeons, of which organization he has been vice-president, and he is the honorary local surgeon of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway. He has been a frequent contributor to the scientific and medical journals of the day and to the secular press. Dr. Wedge was for many years one of the trustees of the Albert Lea College for Women. He is a member of the Loyal Legion and of the board of trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea. Besides his medical practice Dr. Wedge took a great interest in practical scientific farming and is still the owner of the "Oak Park Stock Farm," about one mile west of Albert Lea, where for many years he was an extensive live stock breeder. Dr. Wedge's worth as a man, his prominence as one of the leading men of the state, and his standing and ability as a physician and surgeon have been the subjects of extensive articles in the press of the state and in military and medical journals. His record, plainly set down, speaks for itself as to what he has accomplished, and the recital of his life-long service to the community is in itself the highest encomium which may be spoken or written of this kindly and distinguished gentleman. Dr. Wedge was married October 23, 1858, to Bessie Blackmer, daughter of Dr. Franklin Blackmer, the pioneer. They had one daughter, Mary A., who married Mark M. Jones and died April 4, 1905, leaving besides her husband one son, Albert Wedge Jones, to mourn her loss. It is worthy of note that the coming of Dr. Wedge at the request of L. P. Wedge was the making of Albert Lea. His coming brought many more of his family and relatives, all of whom had an important part in upbuilding the city. Dr. Wedge's sagacity as a young man kept the Wedge part of the townsite in good hands, despite the fact that Lorenzo Merry who had sold to Lucius P. Wedge, tried to take advantage of Dr. Wedge's youth and inexperience to get the property back in his







ANTHONY HUYCK



own hands. Dr. Wedge died October 23, 1911. At his funeral business throughout the city was suspended at the order of the mayor, and thousands followed his body in sorrowing concourse to the grave.

**Thomas W. Wilson** died March 3, 1911, after a busy life filled with good deeds. He was born in Scotland, April 14, 1844. When an infant his parents emigrated to Albany, N. Y., whence after two years they removed in 1846 to Columbia county, Wisconsin, then in 1867 to Nunda township, near Bear lake, in this county. Here he grew to manhood, and, associated with his father, he erected and operated a flouring mill at Twin Lakes and another at Alden for many years and until 1885, when he located in Albert Lea, where he thereafter lived. Mr. Wilson's uprightness of character, his intelligence, abilities and model life secured for him public esteem and confidence and kept him almost continuously in the public service. He served in various town, village, school and important county positions, and in all proved his absolute honesty, carefulness and efficiency. In 1885-86 he was deputy county treasurer, in 1891-93 he was register of deeds, served as mayor of Albert Lea in 1899, was county commissioner several years and for nine years was a member of the city school board. Perhaps it was in this capacity that he rendered his most beneficent service. He was elected to this office July 14, 1894, and served continuously until July 1903. July 15, 1896, he was secretary of the board and served until he left the board in 1903. To this work he gave the same painstaking care and attention with which he applied himself to every public task committed to him. His fidelity to every trust and his usefulness was ever recognized and gave him merited prominence. As a member of the Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea for forty years, and as husband and brother, neighbor and friend he was of the best type of a Christian and possessed the respect and friendship of all. His wife, Margaret Emerson, to whom he was married in 1871, survives him. They were the first couple to be married after the Presbyterian Church was organized. No children were born to them, but their hospitable home was ever the social resort of numerous friends and relatives, who ever found a glad and gracious welcome.

**Anthony Huyck**, now deceased, was one of the prominent men of the state. His size made him a conspicuous figure wherever he went, his genial good nature and sunny temperament made him a favorite with those he met, while his business ability, his force of character, and the logical powers of his mind made him respected throughout the Northwest. He weighed over 300 pounds, was six feet and six inches in height, and was as large in personality and mentality as he was in physique. Anthony Huyck was born in Albany county, New York, January 4, 1828,

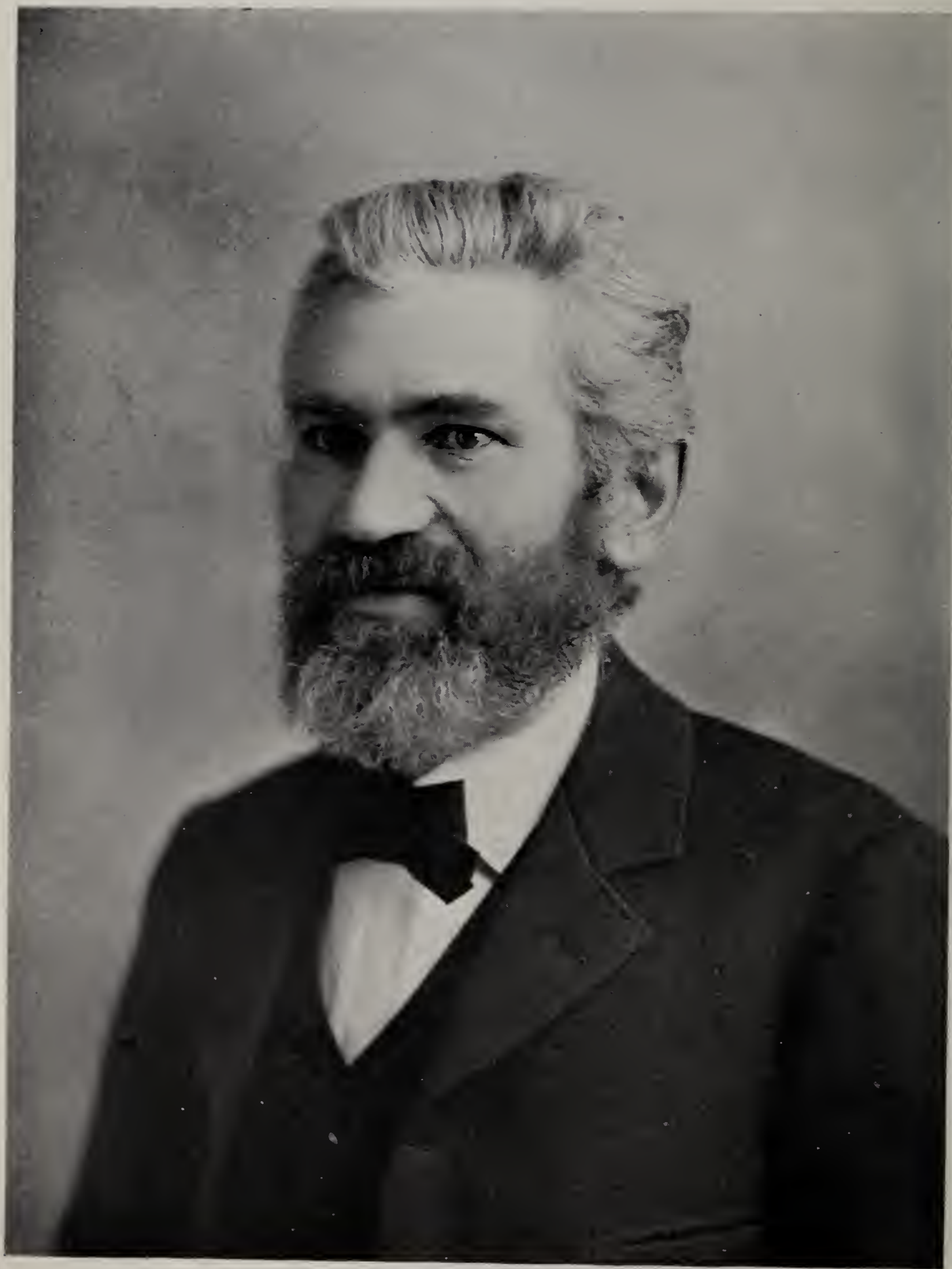


son of Walter and Margaret (Haines) Huyck, natives of that state. He resided with his parents until 1848, when he came to Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he lived four years. Later he came to this state and lived a short time in Caledonia, Mayville and Crooked Creek until 1858, when he settled on a farm in Wilmington township, Houston county, where he acquired vast possessions and became a leading citizen. In 1877 he was sent to the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. In 1891 he came to Albert Lea to look after his holdings in this county, and here he lived until his lamented death, March 2, 1898. The subject of this sketch was married, June 5, 1859, at what was then Itasca, near Albert Lea, to Emily A. Colby, born February 7, 1835, at Orange county, Vermont, daughter of John and Hannah (Rowell) Colby, natives of Vermont. John Colby and his wife lived in Vermont a few years and then spent fifteen years in Pennsylvania. Thereafter they spent five years in Wisconsin and in 1855 came to Minnesota and located in Houston county. A year later they came to Freeborn county and engaged in farming in Albert Lea township the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Huyck had four children. Cora, Grace and Emma died of scarlet fever in early life. Ella V. is the wife of Judge Heman Blackmer, of Albert Lea.

**Captain Asa W. White**, pioneer, veteran of the Civil War, upright citizen and former county and city official, died January 13, 1907, after a useful and well-spent life. He was born in Chenango county, New York, December 20, 1827, and in 1848 settled on a farm in Green county, Wisconsin. In 1852 he became a merchant in Union, Rock county, Wisconsin, and in September of that year was married to Elizabeth A. Priest. In June, 1854, Captain White moved his family to Mitchell, Iowa, where he built the first log house in the vicinity. There he was register of deeds and afterward county treasurer. Early in 1856 he resigned the latter office and came to Freeborn county, settling in Pickerel Lake township, where he lived until 1861, when he assisted in recruiting the heroic Company F, of the Fourth Minnesota volunteer infantry. Enlisting as a private October 11, 1861, he was, October 20, commissioned captain. He participated in the battles of Iuka, Corinth, the campaign against Vicksburg, the Yazoo Pass expedition and other notable engagements. June 19, 1863, by reason of ill health, he was compelled to resign and return home. He soon after, and until 1872, engaged in the mercantile business. In the latter year he became clerk of the district court and served two terms. He also served as justice of the peace, as city assessor and in other positions. He was a charter member of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M., and was its first master. From 1895 until his death Captain White lived on his fine farm on the west shore of Lake Albert Lea, spending many of his summers with his daughter







CHARLES SOTH



at Lake Pulaski, at Buffalo, Minn. He left three children: Mrs. J. E. Stowell, C. D. White and Mrs. Ida A. Forrest. At the time of his death the newspapers said of Captain White: "Captain White has been identified for half a century with the history and affairs of this community, and as citizen, soldier and official, in all the walks of life, he bore an honorable part and possessed the universal esteem of his fellowmen. He was a man of staunch convictions and of integrity, and his life work and his record will ever be a cherished memory to his family and notable in the annals of Freeborn county."

**Charles Soth**, now deceased, was an earnest factor in the life of Albert Lea for many years, and in dying left a heritage of honor to his family, and a memory which will long be respected in the community wherein he labored. Whether as a harness maker on a small scale or as a successful man of affairs, he maintained a staunch, substantial character, and his influence was ever in the line of sane, conservative action. Charles Soth was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, January 2, 1846, and was brought to America in 1849 by his parents. The family located in Watertown, Wis., and there Charles attended the public schools until seventeen years of age. Then he went to Milwaukee and learned the harness making and saddlery trade. Afterward he went to Waterloo, Iowa, and engaged in the harness and saddlery and grocery business, in company with his brother-in-law, Theodore Naeve. In 1872 they came to Albert Lea and opened a similar establishment, conducting also a general store. In 1902 Mr. Soth retired from the mercantile department, but still continued in the harness line until 1907. He was also extensively interested in real estate. Seeing the need of another bank in Albert Lea, he organized the Freeborn County State Bank of Albert Lea and became its first president. In 1908 he purchased a controlling interest in the Brundin Packing Company, which was later changed to the Albert Lea Packing Company, and of which he was vice-president. In addition to this he was a director in the Case Corset Company and in the State Bank of Manchester. Mr. Soth was an independent voter, and was one of the early members of the Albert Lea fire department. He was always a useful citizen and helped lay the foundation for the prosperity of a number of institutions which have contributed to the growth of the city. The subject of this sketch was married, April 22, 1881, at Watertown, Wis., to Augusta Krueger, a native of that place. This union has resulted in two children: Mrs. C. E. Paulson and Henry Soth, both of Albert Lea.

**Henry Soth**, president of the Albert Lea Packing Company, is one of the popular and successful young men of the city, and is taking an active and vital interest in its upbuilding. His voice,



his influence and his time are freely given to every progressive movement, and although young in years he already has a public record of which any man might well be proud. He is a native son of Albert Lea, born March 6, 1885, his parents being Charles and Augusta (Krueger) Soth, natives respectively of Germany and Wisconsin. Henry attended the schools of Albert Lea and at an early age entered actively into business life, his efforts being largely directed in Albert Lea, though for some time he was a resident of Manchester, in which place he still retains a number of interests. His pleasant home at 308 West College street, Albert Lea, is a model of comfort and convenience. The subject of this sketch was married September 14, 1910, to Anna Nelson, of Blooming Prairie, Minn. Mrs. Soth is very popular among the young married people with whom she mingles socially. In municipal affairs Mr. Soth is alderman from the second ward, is chairman of the city street committee, assistant chief of the Albert Lea fire department and treasurer of the relief society of the Albert Lea fire department. He is also an honorary member of the Manchester fire department. In a financial way he is vice-president of the Freeborn County State Bank of Albert Lea and cashier of the Manchester State Bank of Manchester. His business relations include the presidency of the Albert Lea Packing Company, as before mentioned, the vice-presidency of the Northwestern Electric Company and a directorate in the Luce Corset Company, of Albert Lea, and the Albert Lea Motor Company. He is also vice-president of the Albert Lea Auto Club. With all these varied interests, Mr. Soth is genial and approachable, and the presentation of every worthy cause finds in him an attentive auditor.

**John Andrew Larson**, an early settler on the banks of Freeborn lake, was born in Malmo, Sweden, March 12, 1836. He grew to manhood in his native country and came to the United States in 1858, locating first in Chicago, where he remained six months. From there he went to Calmar, Iowa, where he also remained a similar period. He then came to Minnesota, and after a short time spent at Faribault, came in 1859 to Freeborn county and settled in Carlston township and engaged in farming. In 1861 he was married to Margaret Horning, and this union was blessed with ten children. The family remained on the farm until 1898, when they moved to Albert Lea. Mr. Larson saw much of the hardship and many of the struggles of the early days. He was a friend of the Indians, and his house was often visited by the red men. During the Indian scare he took his horses and wagon and gathered his neighbors into his home, where he felt his friendship for the Indians would protect them. Mr. Larson in the early days was accustomed to hauling his wheat and other produce to Hastings, Minn., and McGregor, Iowa, returning with a load of groceries for







ELLEND ERICKSON



the store at Freeborn. These trips usually occupied two or three weeks. During his lifetime Mr. Larson made four trips to the old country and was planning a fifth at the time of his death. He was an active man, and insisted on doing the light work up to the very last. His death, March 23, 1908, was the result of heart failure, induced by a runaway. He left, besides his widow, six children: A. E. Larson, Mrs. Edward Tellet, Mrs. Ralph Olson and Arthur Larson. At the time of his death a newspaper said of him: "While not active in public affairs, Mr. Larson exemplified the best type of foreign-born American citizenship. He was honorable and just in all his dealings with his friends and neighbors, and throughout his long and busy life his record for squareness and fair dealing was maintained without blur or blemish." Another paper said: "He was a man who enjoyed a large circle of friends and was highly respected by them. He was an indulgent husband and father, and though devoted to his family was a man who greatly enjoyed his friends."

**Ellend Erickson**, veteran of the Civil War and for many years a prominent citizen of Freeborn county, was born in Sogn, Norway, October 7, 1835, son of Erick Ellendson and Anna Olson, his wife, also natives of that place. The father died in his native land and the mother came to America in 1865, dying in Norman, Iowa, in 1902. Ellend attended the schools of Sogn, and in July, 1854, came to America, working as a lumberman in Chicago for six years. In 1860 he came to Freeborn county and located on a quarter section in Bath township, his land title bearing the signature of Abraham Lincoln. In 1861 he went back to Wisconsin and enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin volunteer infantry, as a private. He was promoted to sergeant, was commissioned second lieutenant in 1863, and first lieutenant in 1864, holding that office at the time he was mustered out of service in March, 1865, at Chattanooga, Tenn. He did valiant service throughout the war and took part in all the battles, marches, skirmishes and sieges in which his regiment participated, having twenty-three battles to his credit. At the battle of New Hope Church, Georgia, he was captured and spent four months as a prisoner at Macon and Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S. C. Upon his return from the war, Lieutenant Erickson resumed his farming operations in Bath township. With the years he prospered, erected buildings, developed his land and added to his possessions until he owned 360 acres of well-tilled and fertile lands. In 1902 he purchased a lot in Albert Lea and erected the comfortable home in which he and his good wife now reside, enjoying the well-earned fruits of a long and well-spent life. In 1878 Mr. Erickson served in the first city council of Albert Lea as alderman from the second ward. While in Bath township he



was on the school board many terms, and on the town board twenty years, nine of which he was chairman. In 1889-91 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. The subject of this sketch was married March 27, 1860, to Betsey Jacobson, born in Sogn, Norway, October 7, 1841. She came to America in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were the parents of ten children. Of these eight are living. Anna is now Mrs. John G. Jacobson, of Church's Ferry, N. D. Lena is now Mrs. Samuel S. Moen, of Culbertson, Mont. Caroline is Mrs. Inger Sorlie, of Church's Ferry, N. D. Jacob lives in Minot, N. D., and Oscar H. lives in Reeder, in the same state. Ella lives in Canada, Nora at home and Laura in Mason City, Iowa. Emery and Edward are dead. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. Mr. Erickson helped to organize and build the Poplar Grove Creamery in the northern part of Bath township, was its president until he resigned at the time he moved to Albert Lea, and is still a stockholder. In 1900 he was instrumental in circulating the petition which resulted in Rural Route No. 1, from Albert Lea to Bath and Bancroft, this being operated two years before any others were established in the county.

**Charles E. Paulson**, president of the Freeborn County State Bank, was born in Wells, Minn., on the fifth day of September, 1881. He is the son of Edward and Sophia (Johnson) Paulson. His parents were natives of Sweden. They came to America in 1865, first locating in Wisconsin. After a few years spent in the Badger state they removed to Minnesota, first locating at Albert Lea and shortly after moving to Wells. In a number of years afterwards they again took up their residence in Albert Lea, where, in 1906, the father died. Mr. Paulson was a mechanic. The mother still lives in Albert Lea. Charles E. Paulson, the subject of this sketch, attended the graded and high schools of Albert Lea during his boyhood. Upon leaving school he was first employed by the First National Bank of Albert Lea. In 1902 he removed to Lamberton, Minn., where he was employed in the Citizens' State Bank. In 1903 he returned to Freeborn county and organized the State Bank of Clarks Grove. He was elected cashier of that institution. In 1907 the Freeborn County State Bank of Albert Lea was organized and Mr. Paulson became cashier. In 1909 Charles Soth, who was then president, died. Mr. Paulson was elected to take his place as president and is now at the head of this flourishing financial institution. In 1905 Charles E. Paulson was united in marriage to Theodora Soth, daughter of Charles and Augusta Soth, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Two children have blessed this union. They are Helen E. and Augusta Soth Paulson. Mr. Paulson is a Republican in politics and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He has never aspired to hold any







MR. AND MRS. VALENTINE KATZUNG



public office. His time has been thoroughly devoted to the very successful banking business which he has built up. He has the confidence and good will of the entire community and in his beautiful home, surrounded by his friends and neighbors, enjoys the fruits of a financial success resulting from high personal integrity and sagacious investments.

**Edward Olson**, a well-known banker of Albert Lea, was born April 16, 1863, in Iowa county, Wisconsin, son of Knudt and Christina (Hellekson) Olson. He received his early education in the common schools and attended a business college when he was but sixteen years of age. Until twenty years of age he assisted on the home farm and mastered the farming occupation. In 1883, determining to start out for himself, he came to Minnesota and was employed as a clerk in a store at Granite Falls for one year. In 1885 he established a general store at Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine county, which he conducted until 1894. He then moved to Iowa and remained there three years, after which he came to Albert Lea and operated a bottling establishment until 1904. At this time the opportunity to realize his great ambition was presented, and he was elected president of the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea. In this capacity he serves at the present time. Mr. Olson is courteous and affable, and his banking policy has won him the confidence and respect of the community, his personality being an important factor in the success of the institution of which he is the head. Mr. Olson was united in matrimony, January 21, 1886, to Mary Hanson, daughter of Ole and Jane Hanson, of Blue Mounds, Wis. Three children have been born to them: Jennie, wife of Burt Knatvold, of Albert Lea, and Oscar and Irene, who are at home. Mr. Olson is deeply interested in modern education and is treasurer of the school board of Albert Lea. His success in life is an example of what can be accomplished by high ambitions and conscientious endeavors. Beginning as a poor boy he has steadily climbed toward success and at the present time occupies the enviable position of a highly respected and influential citizen.

**Knudt Olson**, a substantial pioneer of Norwegian birth, came to America in the early days and went to Texas, where he remained for seven years, after which he located in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and was married to Christina Hellekson, a native of that state. To them were born six children: Edward, Thea, Otto, Sarah, Oscar and Josephine. This hard-working father and mother reared their children in Wisconsin, sending them to school and daily instilling into their young minds the necessity for constant and persevering endeavor, that they might be fitted to assume the responsibilities of life. Mr. and Mrs. Olson died on the



home farm, the latter passing away six months later than her husband.

**H. E. Nelson**, deceased, was born in Denmark on May 19, 1837. He came to America at the age of twenty-one and located near Racine, Wis., where he worked out until 1869, at this time coming to Freeborn county, where he bought land in Bancroft and Bath townships. He followed general farming until 1895, when he rented his farm and moved to Albert Lea, living there until his death on July 13, 1897. In the year 1870 he married Annie K. Engen, a native of Denmark, the daughter of C. and Annie M. Engen. Her father was a farmer, having located in Bancroft township in the year 1869. He farmed there until 1893, moving at this time to Albert Lea, where he lived until his death in 1907. Her mother still lives in Albert Lea. Their home was blessed with six children: Hilda; Arthur, a farmer in Bancroft township; Alma, now Mrs. Ball, of California; Nora, now Mrs. Lein, of Wisconsin; Walter, of Sioux Falls; Emma, who lives in Sioux Falls, S. D. Mr. Nelson was a Republican in politics and attended the Danish Lutheran Church. He held various town offices in Bancroft—chairman of the town board and a member of the school board. Mrs. Nelson has spent one year in Sioux Falls and one-half year in Wisconsin. Mr. Nelson was one of the organizers of Clark's Grove Creamery. He was always vitally interested in the welfare of his town and township.

**J. M. Nelson**, who owns several splendid farms in Hayward township and runs a rural mail route, was born in Albert Lea in 1864, the son of Mathias and Agnes, natives of Norway. They came to America in 1853 and located in Wisconsin, remaining there until 1858. Then they came to Albert Lea township, Freeborn county, and bought land. Mathias was born April 8, 1835, and died in 1902. His wife was born in April 29, 1836, and died August 25, 1905. She came to this country before her husband did and they were married in Wisconsin in 1856. The subject of this sketch attended the district schools of Glenville, and upon leaving school he farmed with his father until 1886, when he bought 240 acres in Hayward and Shell Rock townships and did general farming until 1903. He then retired from farm life and moved into Albert Lea, where he has lived up to the present time. Upon coming to Albert Lea Mr. Nelson entered the rural mail service and has continued as a carrier ever since. He rents his farms, of which he has three, representing 640 acres in all. All Mr. Nelson's farms are improved and carried on in a most progressive way. The subject was married on May 26, 1886, to Olive Rosenberg, daughter of Mathias and Agnes Rosenberg, natives of Norway. She was born in Norway in 1865 and came to America in 1882, locating in Hayward township, where her father





J. M. NELSON AND FAMILY





did a general farming business until his death in August, 1903. Her mother still lives on the old home farm in Hayward. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson's home has been made happy by six children, of whom two have died—Ada, deceased; Ovidia; Amy and Effie, twins; Odean, deceased, and Morrill. Mr. Nelson is a prohibitionist and belongs to the Lutheran Church. He has served on the school board in Hayward township and is a stockholder in the Glenville Creamery, but never aspired to public office. Mr. Nelson is a very highly respected citizen. He owns a fine home at 412 Grove street. It is worthy of note that Christ Nelson, of Shell Rock, brother of J. M. Nelson, is one of the first children born in this county, who is still living.

**G. A. Olson**, a prosperous manufacturer of Albert Lea, was born in Riceland township, Freeborn county, in 1861, the son of Ole C. and Karen (Johnson) Olson, natives of Norway. The father was a shoemaker and came to this country in 1852, locating in Wisconsin, where he followed his trade and took up a claim. In 1856 he removed with his family to Riceland township, being the first settler in this township. He lived on his homestead up to the time of his death in 1895. His wife died in 1904. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the schools of Riceland township. Upon leaving school he worked on his father's farm, conducting it himself for five years after his father's death. Some time before leaving the farm Mr. Olson invented a hay sling. It proved such a success that he established a factory in Albert Lea in 1901. A history of this business appears elsewhere. In time the company bought a fine brick building, three stories and basement, 40x80, on South Broadway, where they now manufacture a full line of hay tools, litter carriers, etc. Mr. Olson has one brother and two sisters. He is a member of the Socialist local and makes his home at the City Hotel.

**N. S. Nelson**, who is the president and owner of the Albert Lea Ice & Fuel Company, first saw the light of day on November 4, 1859, in the country of Denmark, the son of L. N. and Lena (Christianson) Nelson. They came to America in the year 1868 and located in Shelby county, Iowa, where he farmed until his death in 1904. The mother died when the subject was still an infant. The subject of the sketch gained his education in the common schools of Iowa. Leaving school he worked on the home farm a few years and then went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he worked in a flour mill a short time. In 1883 he removed to Dell Rapids, S. D., where he went into the fuel business, continuing there until 1895. At this time he took up farming in South Dakota and in the fall of 1901 came to Albert Lea, going into partnership with A. C. Anderson and Peter Larson, who conducted the firm called the Albert Lea Ice Company. When Mr.



Nelson joined the firm they added fuel to their line of goods, the firm name being changed to the Albert Lea Ice & Fuel Company. The following year A. C. Anderson and Mr. Nelson purchased Mr. Larson's share in the firm and two years later (1904) Mr. Nelson bought out Mr. Anderson's share, leaving him sole owner of the business. He conducts a very flourishing and up-to-date business. In 1884 Mr. Nelson married Mary Hanson, a native of Denmark. Their home has been blessed with six children—Lydia, at home; Martha, now Mrs. J. V. Olson, of South Dakota; Nellie, now Mrs. Oscar Olson, of Albert Lea; Pearl, at home; Ralph, at home, and Oliver, who died when seven years of age. Mr. Nelson is a Prohibitionist and is a member of the Danish Baptist Church. He is a loyal member of the Fraternal Union of Neenah, Wis., and the Yeomen. His residence is situated at 415 East Third street. Mr. Nelson is one of Albert Lea's substantial citizens, always interested in its welfare.

**Albert Lea Ice & Fuel Company.** In the year 1901 N. S. Nelson came from South Dakota to Albert Lea and entered into partnership with Peter Larsen and A. C. Anderson (who were then in the ice business) under the firm name of the Albert Lea Ice & Fuel Company, for the purpose of selling ice and fuel of all kinds; locating on the corner of Pearl and Washington streets, with Mr. Nelson as manager. October 1, 1901, one year later, Mr. Larsen sold his interest to his partners, they continuing at the same stand. In 1904 Mr. Anderson retired, selling his interest to Mr. Nelson, who then became sole owner, continuing to do business under the same name. In 1907 he leased the old Mallery property from N. P. Sorenson on South Broadway on the C., R. I. & P. R. R. tracks, and moved there July 1, 1907, since which time the volume of the business has doubled and the concern is doing a flourishing business, pleasing its many customers, both old and new.

**H. A. Spencer**, clerk of the District Court of Freeborn County, was born on October 8, 1874, in Lancaster, Wis., the son of A. B. and Nancy J. (Lewis) Spencer, both natives of Wisconsin. The father followed his trade of carpenter and contractor in Wisconsin until the year 1874, when, with his family, he moved to Freeborn county, where he worked at his trade until 1906, at which time he removed to Kansas, where he still lives. The mother died in Freeborn county in 1890. The subject of this sketch attended the district and graded schools of Freeborn county, after which he worked with his father until 1898; then he ran stationary engines until 1907, when he had the great misfortune to lose his right limb. Being unable to continue this line of work, he kept books in a plumbing establishment in Albert Lea for one year, and in 1908 was elected to the office of clerk of



the District Court of Freeborn County, which position he still holds. Mr. Spencer was married in 1894 to Irene Sorenson, and their home has been made happy by four children—Bernice, born January 11, 1896; Mildred, born August 27, 1898; Raymond, born February 25, 1901, and Aline, born March 4 and died March 25, 1907. Mr. Spencer is a staunch Republican and a member of the Methodist Church. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Maccabees, Equitable Fraternal Union, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

**Robert G. Stevenson, M.D.**, a physician and surgeon of Albert Lea, was born on November 21, 1880, at St. Charles, Minn., the son of Robert L. and Lydia (Darling) Stevenson, natives of Scotland and Illinois, respectively. The father farmed near St. Charles until about 1898, when he retired from active life. With his wife he removed to St. Charles, where they are still living. The subject of this sketch gained his early education in the district schools of Olmstead county and in the high school of St. Charles. Later he attended the Northwestern University at Chicago, from which institution he graduated in 1906. At that time he took one year interneship at Mercy Hospital, Chicago. Then Dr. Stevenson took the civil service examination and spent one and one-half years in the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill. In December, 1908, he established an office in Albert Lea, where he has since enjoyed a splendid practice. Dr. Stevenson is a Republican in political life and is a very progressive man in his profession. At the present time he is doing excellent service as secretary of the Freeborn County Medical Society.

**A. C. Sorenson**, the owner of a prosperous grain and fuel business in Albert Lea, is a native of Denmark, having been born in that country on April 4, 1850, the son of Soren and Annie Sorenson. The father died when the subject was but two years old and the mother lived until the year 1905. Mr. Sorenson attended the city schools of Copenhagen, and upon leaving the school worked on the home farm and in a linen factory. He came to America in 1873, locating at Faribault, Minn., later going to Owatonna, where he conducted a Scandinavian hotel for one year. At the end of this time he came to Freeborn county, buying a forty-acre farm, upon which he farmed for a short time. Selling this farm, he moved to Martin county, where he farmed for three years, until 1880. Mr. Sorenson then became an employe of the W. W. Cagill Company, representing them in numerous Freeborn county towns. For the long period of twenty-three years he has managed the Albert Lea branch. In June, 1910, Mr. Sorenson bought the business of the W. W. Cagill estate, now being the sole owner of this substantial business. In the year 1875 the subject was married to Louisa C. Jensen, a native of



Denmark. To Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson have been born fourteen children, of which number ten are now living. They are: Arthur A., who is with his father; James L., manager of the bank at Clark's Grove; Louis, who lives in Washington state; Annie, now Mrs. Hellie, living on a farm in Albert Lea township; Ida, now Mrs. Foster, of Crookston, Minn.; Nora, now Mrs. Riley, of Lincoln, Neb.; Mary, who lives in Albert Lea; Lulu, now Mrs. Mikelson, of Albert Lea; Martha and Albert, who live at home. Mr. Sorenson is a staunch Republican and attends the Baptist Church. He is a faithful member of the Danish Brotherhood, Masonic Lodge and Ancient Order of United Workmen. During his residence in Albert Lea he has served ten years in the city council and is at present a member of the Charter Commission. Mr. Sorenson is a successful business man, owning considerable real estate on Front street.

**G. R. Scott**, the president of the Albert Lea Hardware Company, was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., on June 22, 1866, son of Moses and Margaret Scott, natives, respectively, of New York and Germany. In the early years the father moved from New York to Ohio and from there to Wisconsin, where he married, and farmed until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he joined Company D, Twelfth regiment, Wisconsin volunteers, giving three and one-half years of faithful service for his country. In 1875 they came to Pickerel Lake township, Freeborn county, where Moses Scott carried on a farming business up to the time of his death on December 21, 1906. His wife still lives on the home farm in Pickerel Lake township. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the district schools of Freeborn county and the Albert Lea High School, attending the latter for two years. Leaving school he helped his father on the farm for six years. At this time he came to Albert Lea, finding employment in a grocery store, where he worked for one and one-half years. Upon leaving the grocery store he went into the draying business under the firm name of Thompson & Scott, which business he carried on for five years. In 1903 Mr. Scott bought an interest in the Peterson Hardware Company, where he remained until 1908, when it was incorporated as the Albert Lea Hardware Company. He was made president of the company and still fills that position. In 1889 Mr. Scott was married to Emma E. Eberhart, daughter of Henry and Barbara Eberhart of Pickerel Lake. They are the parents of three children—Clarence E., Leslie H. and Raymond G., all at home. Mr. Scott is a member of the German Methodist Church, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Royal Arcanum. He owns his pleasant home at 122 St. Mary street.







P. F. PETERSEN



**P. F. Petersen**, the well-known furniture dealer of Albert Lea, has been engaged in this business for twenty-seven years. He was born in Denmark, January 26, 1868, son of Hans and Catherine (Friis) Petersen, and came to the United States with his father in 1883, his mother having died previous to this time. For several years after coming to this country they made their home in North Dakota, where the father subsequently died. P. F., the subject of this biography, received his early education in Denmark, and later attended the public schools in Albert Lea. After leaving school he secured employment in a furniture store and has since been carrying on this business, which he purchased and in which he has been most successful. He was married in 1889 to Agnes Petersen and their home has been brightened by the arrival of five children: Mabel E., Hazel M., Elwin C., Russell and Raymond, all of whom are at home. Mr. Petersen is a member of the First Baptist Church of Albert Lea and a liberal contributor to its support. In politics he affiliates with the Republicans but has never sought public office. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Albert Lea and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and D. B. S. He is also a member of the Business Men's League of Albert Lea.

**F. P. Mortenson**, who, with his brother, M. P. Mortenson, owns the Albert Lea Milk Company, was born in Freeborn county on March 17, 1881, the son of Hans and Lena (Christopherson) Mortenson, both natives of Denmark. They came to the United States in 1876 and located in Freeborn county, where he farmed for several years, dying in 1892. His widow married S. J. Nelson and is living in Albert Lea township. The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Freeborn county and took one term in the Blair Business College, at Blair, Nebraska. At this time he clerked in a grocery store for four years and then started in the milk business in 1905, in which business he still continues. In 1905 Mr. Mortenson bought the Albert Lea Milk Company and put up a fine brick building, where he and his brother, M. P., conduct a splendid business. They make ice cream and sell it retail and wholesale. Their milk is bought directly from the farmers. Mr. Mortenson was married in 1909 to Olena, daughter of Soren and Stena Rasmussen, old settlers of Albert Lea township. They have one child, Phalve Isabelle. The subject is a Republican in his political life and a member of the Danish Lutheran Church and the Royal Arcanum Lodge. He lives at 210 First street. Mr. Mortenson is a very substantial citizen, having made his success in business by the hardest work.

**Charles Sorenson**, a progressive jeweler of Albert Lea, was born in the southern portion of Riceland township, on September 22, 1873, son of Soren and Jane (Knutson) Sorenson. He at-



tended the district schools of Hayward, and at the close of his school life worked on the home farm until 1894, at which time he went to Albert Lea, finding employment as a photographer with J. R. Halvorson. He also learned the watchmaking business and in 1905 established himself in the jewelry business in Albert Lea, which business he has followed up to the present time. In 1899 Mr. Sorenson was married to Gustine Styve, daughter of Andrew A. and Anna (Laite) Styve, the father a farmer of Bancroft township. Their one son, Arnold Sigfried, lives with his parents. Mr. Sorenson affiliates with the Lutheran Church, and owns his pleasant home at 610 East Fourth street.

**Soren Sorenson**, father of Charles Sorenson, and his wife, Jane Knutson, are both natives of Norway. They came to America in 1855 and located in Stoughton, Wis., where they remained about six months. At this time they removed to Werth county, Iowa, where Mr. Sorenson farmed with his father until the outbreak of the Civil War. He served throughout the war in Company K, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Iowa Infantry. At the close of the rebellion he moved to Austin, where he established a hotel business, which he carried on for three years. Mr. Sorenson then removed his family to Freeborn county, buying a farm in Rice-land township, where he farmed until about 1903, at which time he retired from active life and with his wife came to Albert Lea, where they still reside.

**C. L. Swenson**, a successful banker of Albert Lea, was born in St. Peter on December 14, 1869, son of Swen and Kristi (Knutson) Swenson. They came to this country in the year 1857, settling in St. Peter among the Indians, where they remained up to the time of his death. The mother is still living with her sons. C. L. Swenson was educated in the schools of St. Peter and at the Lutheran Academy in Albert Lea. He taught in Freeborn county schools for two years, and also engaged as bookkeeper in St. Peter. Upon locating permanently in Albert Lea he secured employment in a general store for some time, after which he entered the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea, where he worked as bookkeeper for a while. After one year's service in the bank he was made cashier, in which capacity he has served ever since. Mr. Swenson was married in 1895 to Annie Christine Weberg, daughter of Andrew and Aase Weberg, of St. Peter, Minn. Mr. Weberg is a furniture dealer and undertaker and was formerly a painter. The subject's family consists of three children—Altine C., Letitia M. and Wilton G.—all at home. Mr. Swenson is a member of the K. of P., No. 66; Elks, No. 813; M. W. A., Royal Neighbors and Sons of Norway. He has always taken an active part in the city's welfare, being alderman for seven years, president of the council for five years and mayor of the city from



1907 to 1909, elected again in 1911 and is now serving. Mr. Swenson is a man who has taken advantage of every opportunity for success and has made himself a prominent factor in the business life of Albert Lea. He is a Republican in politics, in which he always takes an active part.

**G. T. Wasrud**, a jeweler and optician of Albert Lea, living at 210 North Washington street, was born in Wisconsin on November 21, 1866, son of T. G. and Mary, both natives of Norway. T. G. Wasrud came to America in early manhood, locating in Waupaka county, Wisconsin, where he farmed until his death in 1900. His wife still lives in Wisconsin. The subject of this sketch attended the district schools of Wisconsin. Leaving school he found employment in a shoe store in Albert Lea, where he worked for three years. He then served as an apprentice for a watchmaker in Albert Lea. His apprenticeship completed, he established a jewelry business of his own at Elmore, Minn., remaining there four years. At the end of this time he located in Albert Lea, where he established himself in the jewelry business at 218 South Broadway. In 1907 he moved his stock to 224 South Broadway, where he now carries a full and complete line. Mr. Wasrud's wife was Louisa Anderson, of Illinois. The subject is a staunch Republican and a member of the Lutheran Church. He is a loyal member of the Masons, Royal Arcanum, Maccabees,, Brotherhood of American Yeomen and Equitable Fraternal Union. He has never aspired to the holding of any public office, but is interested in the best welfare of the city.

**Richard E. Mills**, a retired harnessmaker of Albert Lea, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, on March 16, 1834, the son of Richard and Phoebe Mills, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and a contractor by profession. He did the contracting work for the Wellan canal in Canada. In about 1840 he came to Wisconsin and conducted a fur trading post through northern Wisconsin, where he remained about fifteen or twenty years. He then took a railroad contract on the Northern Pacific at Bismarck, North Dakota, after which he came to Albert Lea, and died there in 1884 at the age of eighty-nine years. His wife died a number of years before. The subject of this sketch had a very limited education, attending school only a short time in Pennsylvania. Leaving school, he learned the saddlery business. In 1855 he went to Wisconsin to visit his father and remained with him one year. He then returned to his home state and established a harness business at West Greenville, Pa. Mr. Mills carried on that business until the opening of the Civil War, when he joined the 100th Pennsylvania Round Head as musician. He was with them one year. The bands then were mustered out and so he entered



the navy and continued there throughout the war. He has two honorable discharges and very fine recommendations from the Navy Department. At the close of the war he joined a minstrel company and traveled with them one season until reaching Peoria, Ill. There he engaged at his trade and remained for about five years. During his residence in Peoria he met Ellen Smith, who became his wife in 1867. She was born in 1842, the daughter of Wilson Smith, a native of Pennsylvania. He was a carriage and wagon manufacturer of Peoria. He died on July 10, 1876, and the mother died in December, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Mills' home was blessed with four children, one of whom is dead—Mabel Helen, now Mrs. Rhorbach, of Gary, Okla.; Kate B., now Mrs. Hand, of Watertown, S. D.; Lou, now Mrs. Judd, of River Falls, Wis.; Dick, who died in infancy. Politically Mr. Mills is a Republican. He is a member of Robinson Post, G. A. R., of Albert Lea. He came to Albert Lea on December 25, 1870, and established himself in the harness business. He continued at this work until 1907, when he tore down his shop, which was located on the corner of Williams and Newton streets. He has always been a substantial citizen of Albert Lea, looking out for its best welfare.

**Daniel W. Horning**, retired farmer and estimable citizen of Albert Lea, was born in Jefferson county, New York, December 25, 1835, son of Henry and Margaret (Countryman) Horning, in whose home he was reared to manhood, attending the schools of his neighborhood. In 1857, with his mother and brother, William J., he came to Freeborn county, acquired 160 acres of land from the government in Albert Lea township, erected a log cabin, broke some of the land and remained two years. In 1859 he set out for Oregon, but after a year's experience in Idaho City, Ida., as a miner he located in Montana, where he engaged in a similar occupation for four years. During this time he experienced many of the thrilling adventures incident to frontier mining, and had many interesting brushes with the Indians. Subsequently he returned to his Albert Lea farm and for many years engaged in agricultural operations. He broke the ground, erected a frame house and the necessary outbuildings, and as time passed added eighty acres more to the place. He became a prominent man in the community and served his district for many years as a member of the school board. In 1907 he retired from general farming, rented his place and moved to 529 Water street, Albert Lea, where he and his wife are now enjoying a well-earned rest after their many years of toil and labor. Mrs. Horning has allied herself with the Daughters of Rebekah and is chaplain and past noble grand of the local lodge. Mr. Horning was married on his birthday, December 25, 1870, to Caroline A. Powers, born in Oneida county, New York, March 15, 1852, daughter of Augustus W. and



Harriet E. (Brown) Powers, natives of New York state, who settled in Illinois at an early day. Mrs. Powers died at Wilmington, Ill., in 1856, and Mr. Powers came to Freeborn county, where after a long life of usefulness he died at Alden in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Horning have been blessed with eight children—Laura, Clauda, Ethel and Katherine are dead; Webster is on the home farm; Elmer lives in Mason City, Iowa; Queen is now Mrs. Elsworth Horning, of Melroy, Minn; Harriet lives in Algona, Iowa. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Horning's Western experiences would form a most interesting volume. Most of the time west he spent prospecting, but one summer it fell to his lot to haul provisions for his camp from Fort Benton to Idaho City, a distance of over 100 miles. During this time the Indians were unfriendly and Mr. Horning had some narrow escapes from falling a victim to their ferocity. On one of these trips he was attacked by four Indians, but he bravely fought them away, single-handed, and finished the trip in safety.

**William Wohlhuter**, the successful manager of the Albert Lea branch of the Tri-State Telephone Company, was born in Nunda township, this county, December 29, 1861, son of J. V. and Verona (Fortman) Wohlhuter, natives of Alsace-Lorraine, who came to this county in 1856 with the earliest pioneers, the former dying in 1875 and the latter in 1899. William attended the district schools of his neighborhood and continued on the home farm until 1884, when he married Emma V. Geissler and purchased a farm in his native township, where he conducted agricultural operations until 1905. During this period Mr. Wohlhuter attained considerable prominence in public life. He served on the school board and was assessor sixteen years. In 1902 he was elected to the state legislature and served with credit in the sessions of 1903, 1905 and 1909. He also took an interest in the subject of coöperation as a solution of many of the difficulties of farm life, serving the Clover Valley Creamery, of Pickerel Lake township, two years as president, six years as treasurer and six years as secretary. In 1905 Mr. Wohlhuter moved to Albert Lea and took up the duties of his present position. At one time he was vice-president of the Albert Lea Packing Company. Fraternally he has allied himself with the B. P. O. E. and the Business Men's League, and his public service in the city has included membership in the Albert Lea Charter Commission. The Wohlhuter home is brightened by the presence of two daughters and a son—Rose, Leone and Robert.

**C. G. Lembke**, president and manager of the Lembke Dry Goods Company, was born in Naperville, Ill., on June 11, 1877, the son of Charles and Sophia (Ode) Lembke, natives of Hamburg, Germany. They sailed for America in 1865 and located in Naperville, Ill., where the father farmed for thirteen years, and



then moved to Minnesota, settling in Mansfield township, Freeborn county. He farmed here until 1900 and then retired, and is now living at 223 Williams street, Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools of Freeborn county and took a business course at Waverly, Iowa, and in Minneapolis. Upon leaving school he clerked in the dry goods store at Albert Lea, of Gage-Hayden Company for four years and one-half, then became stockholder in the firm of Chamberlain, Skinner & Co., with whom he stayed for three and one-half years. At the end of this time Mr. Lembke organized the Lembke Dry Goods Company and on February 15, 1906, became its president and has served in this capacity up to the present time. They carry an exclusive line of dry goods, and it is considered one of the best equipped stores of its kind in this section. In the year 1901 Mr. Lembke married Gertrude Styve, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Styve, of Albert Lea township. They are the parents of two children—Russell and Irene, both at home. Politically Mr. Lembke is a Republican, and he affiliates with the English Lutheran Church. He is secretary of the Freeborn County Game and Protective Association, being the originator of this association. He makes his home at 1009 James street. Mr. Lembke is one of Albert Lea's prominent business men and is vitally interested in its best development. He is a member of the Business Men's League and one of its executive committee.

**Herman Hirsch**, one of the substantial business men of Albert Lea, was born in Lutwigshoe, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, son of Adam and Johanna (Hirsch) Hirsch, also natives of that place, who came to America in 1863 and spent the remainder of their days in Quincy, Ill. Herman Hirsch received his education in Germany, and at fourteen years of age started work in a banking and brokerage office. In 1857, however, he came to America, and had eight days' experience as clerk in a store. During this short time he determined that there was a wide field for the peddling business. Accordingly he purchased the necessary goods and started out to make his fortune—a stranger in a strange land, whose language even was unknown to him. This effort was crowned with success, and during the ten months he engaged in this business he made \$800. Subsequently he started for the gold fields of Colorado, but never reached there, for upon reaching Quincy, Ill., he found so many business openings that he engaged in the fuel business and located there. After a year in this business he started dealing in hides and furs, following this line at Quincy until 1898. At one time during this period he did the largest fur and hide business in the United States, controlling the output of five states. In 1898 he disposed of this business and went to Cuba, looking for a favorable location. Finding that the



conditions were not favorable, however, he returned to America and located at Albert Lea, starting with his son, Abe Hirsch, the large concern now known as the Albert Lea Hide & Fur Company. Mr. Hirsch is a Mason and belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is also a prominent member of the Boray-Brith, an institution which cares for Hebrew orphans at Cleveland, Ohio. The subject of this sketch was married, October 6, 1862, at Quincy, Ill., to Rosalie Jonas, a native of Blaschen, Germany. They are the parents of eight children. Leo lives in Mason City, Iowa. Ade lives in Albert Lea. Thressa is now Mrs. Leo Plum, of Mankato, Minn. Arthur is located in Watertown, S. D. Minnie is now Mrs. Alfred Joseph, of Mason City, Iowa. Hattie is the wife of Herman Szamet, of Mankato, Minn. Herbert lives in Mason City.

**Abraham Hirsch**, manager of the Albert Lea Hide & Fur Company, was born at Quincy, Ill., September 27, 1868, son of Herman and Rosalie (Jonas) Hirsch. He received his education in the Quincy public schools, and had the additional advantage of a course in the Gem City Business College in the same city. He then traveled some eighteen years in the hide, fur and wool line for his father, covering most of the western states. Subsequently he engaged in the general mercantile business at Boone, Iowa, for a short period. His career in Albert Lea dates from 1903, when he came here and formed a co-partnership with his father in the company of which he is still the manager. Mr. Hirsch was married January 4, 1893, to Rose Weinberg, a native of New York state. Their home has been made happy with three children: Arnold, Gladys and Jerome. The subject of this sketch is known as the father of the Albert Lea Lodge of Elks and is also a prominent member of the Masonic order. In addition to managing the Albert Lea plant for his concern he also looks after the branch houses at Mason City, Iowa, and Watertown, S. D.

**A. Larson**, manager of the Albert Lea Construction Company, was born in Denmark on September 6, 1860, the son of Lars C. and Golvanna M. (Swenson) Larson. He was a mason and followed his trade up to the time of his death. The mother still lives in Denmark. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Denmark and after leaving school followed the carpenter trade. Coming to America in 1885, he located in Hamilton county, Iowa, and followed his trade there for fourteen years. Then Mr. Larson came to Albert Lea, where he followed his trade as mason until 1907, in which year he established the North Albert Lea Concrete Works. He conducted this business for two years and later incorporated and called the firm of the Albert Lea Construction Company. They manufacture everything in the line of concrete. In the year 1880 Mr. Larson was married to Amelia Larson, a



native of Denmark. To their home have been born eleven children, two of whom are dead: Louis, of Albert Lea; Johanna, now Mrs. Schultz, of Waterloo, Iowa; John, with his father; Mary, Minnie, George, Henning, Roy and Annie, all at home, and John and Stena, both dead. Mr. Larson is a Republican in his political life and attends the Danish Lutheran Church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Danish Brotherhood and owns his residence on Bridge street.

**William M. Lane**, a prosperous and progressive real estate dealer of Albert Lea, was born in Chicago, Ill., February 27, 1855, a son of Elijah B. and Amanda M. (Grannis) Lane. He spent his boyhood in Chicago and attended the excellent public schools of that city. When but seventeen years of age he went to California and there remained one year. Afterward he returned to Chicago, but after a stay of one and a half years there, he again started for California. However, he found a favorable business opportunity at Waterloo, Iowa, and there remained about two years, in the meantime marrying Margaret Eason, of that city. In 1888 he came to Freeborn county and purchased a farm of 120 acres in Alden township, where he conducted farming operations until the fall of 1908. It was during this year that he began to trade in real estate as a partner of P. Augustus Peterson. In 1911 E. E. Chadwick purchased the interest of Mr. Peterson, and the firm, which makes a specialty of city property, has since been known as Lane & Chadwick. In political life Mr. Lane is an independent voter. He attends the Methodist Episcopal Church and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. While living at Alden he was assessor for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Lane have a pleasant home at 919 North Pearl street. Their two daughters are: Nellie, now Mrs. W. W. Demmon, of Albert Lea, and Mabel M., who lives at home.

**J. L. Klemme**, one of Albert Lea's jewelers, was born in Vinton, Iowa, on December 2, 1877, only son of J. P. and Margaret Klemme, natives of Indiana and Ohio, respectively. The father came to Iowa when a boy, locating in Winneshiek county. Later he removed to Vinton, where he was married. At this time he and his brother went into the dry goods business in Vinton. They carried on this business for some time. In 1883 J. L. came to Albert Lea, where he established a wholesale butter, egg and poultry business, in which he continued until January 1, 1910. He is now interested in the Lembke Dry Goods Company, of which he is secretary. The subject of this sketch attended the grade and high school of Albert Lea, and upon leaving school worked with his father about seven years. Subsequently he went into the piano business, representing various makes, and later added jewelry to his line of goods. His store was first located at 101



Clark street, later at 135 South Broad, and in 1908 moved into the Lembke Dry Goods store, where he now carries a full line of jewelry and is also representative for the Schiller piano. He is a Republican and a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge. Mr. Klemme never aspired to the holding of any public office.

**B. H. Knatvold**, a banker and a furniture dealer, one of Albert Lea's most progressive business men, is a native of Norway, born on December 16, 1855. His parents, Egbert and Bertha Knatvold, came to America in 1862 and located in Wisconsin, where they remained only six months, then going to Austin, Minn., living there a short time. Leaving Austin they removed to Hayward township, Freeborn county, where the father farmed until his death. He enlisted in the Civil War and served until he was disabled. The mother died at the home of her son, B. H. Knatvold, in Albert Lea, where she had lived since her husband's death. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the district schools of Freeborn county and the high school of Albert Lea, after which he clerked in a drug store for a year. Then for two years Mr. Knatvold clerked in a general store. At the end of this time he entered the hardware store with his brothers, T. V. and H. E., for seven years, during this time acquiring an interest in the business. He sold his share in the firm eighteen years ago and established his present business in furniture and undertaking, at which he has been very successful. Mr. Knatvold was married in 1884 to Christine Jorgenson, and their home has been made happy with four children: Helen, now Mrs. Henry Sieglaff, whose husband conducts a cigar stand in the Hotel Albert; Robert, helping his father and who was in the Citizens' National Bank for three years; Harriet and Ruth, both at home. Politically Mr. Knatvold is a Republican. He is at present vice-president of the Citizens' National Bank and was at one time city treasurer. Mr. Knatvold lives at 410 Park avenue. His success has been made by the hardest work, and he is highly esteemed by all who know him. He is a Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

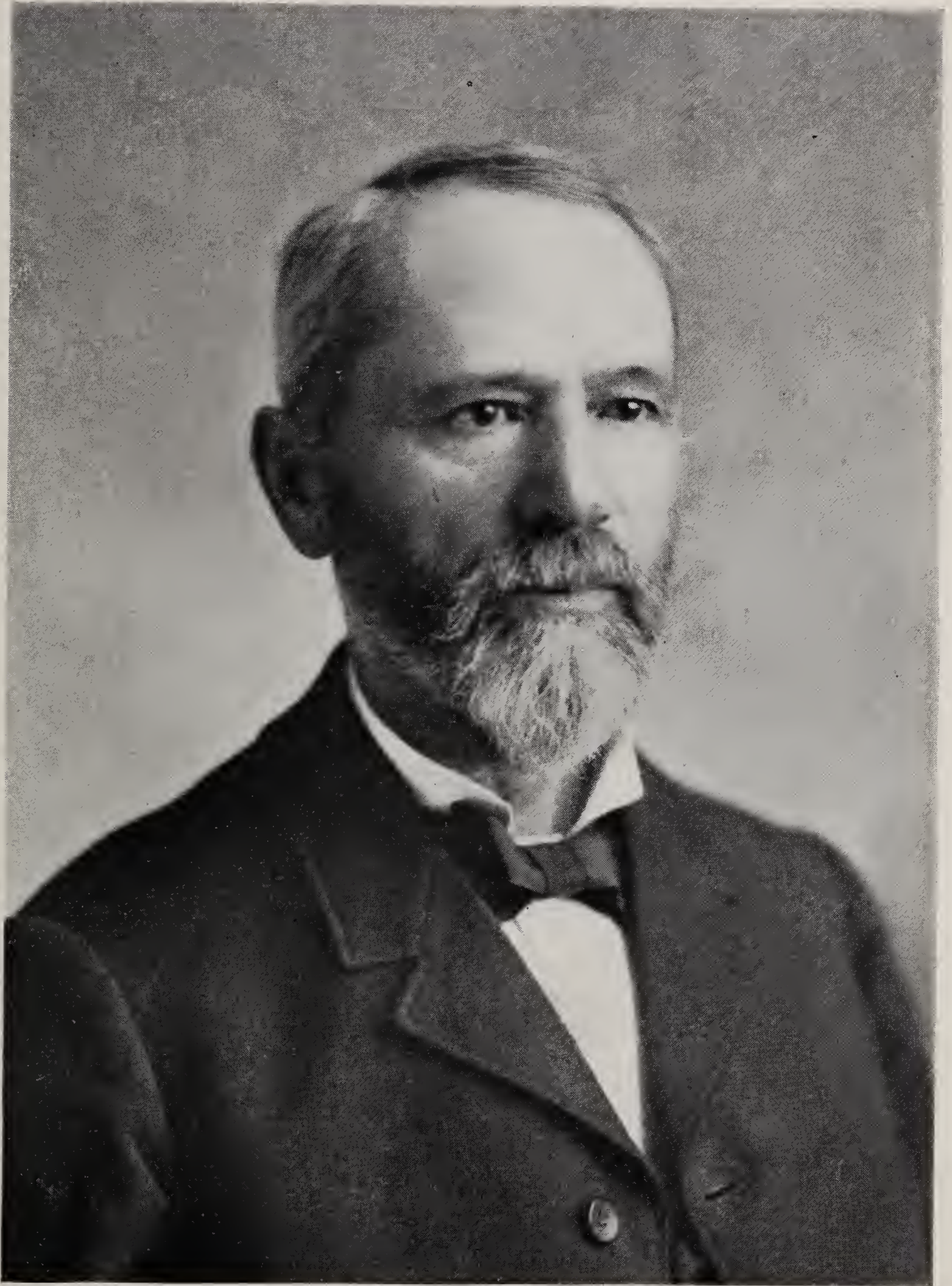
**Herbert E. Skinner** was born in Albert Lea, Minn., March 5, 1871, and is the son of Robert B. and Martha J. Skinner, both pioneer residents of Freeborn county. He attended the public schools of Albert Lea, going through the high school and later spending two years at Macalester College, St. Paul, and one year at the Minnesota State University. Returning from school, he entered the employ of the R. B. Skinner Milling Company, where he remained for five years, serving the last two years as secretary of the company. Retiring from the milling business he opened a land and mortgage office, which he has ever since maintained. In addition to a big retail farm business he has wholesaled several



large blocks of western lands and his real estate operations have been large and successful. He was married February 28, 1911, to Laura Christopherson, of Albert Lea, and lives on Park avenue. He is a member of Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Albert Lea Blue Lodge of Masons, a member of their Chapter and Commandery and a member of the Order of Mystic Shriners of Zurah Temple, Minneapolis. Mr. Skinner was for four years a member of the city council, serving two years as chairman of the finance committee. He is a trustee of Albert Lea College and a trustee and member of the Presbyterian Church.

**Robert B. Skinner**, a resident of Freeborn county since 1861, and of Albert Lea since 1865, was born at Fort Ticonderoga, N. Y., on March 15, 1840, the son of John P. and Polly (Bisby) Skinner. The family left New York in 1852, settling first in Wisconsin. They came to Freeborn county in 1861, locating at Glenville, where the father died in 1872. The son remained in Wisconsin attending school and then came to Freeborn county. He worked on a farm for a short period and in 1862, in company with J. W. Smith, he organized a general store at Glenville, which they operated for a short time, under the firm name of Smith & Skinner. The business was successful and they decided to go in on a larger scale at the county seat. Accordingly, in 1865, they moved their stock of goods to Albert Lea and opened up in the Union block on Clark street, which, though one of the oldest buildings in Albert Lea, is still standing. Later they erected a double block on Broadway, which they occupied for several years as a general store, until the partnership was dissolved. Mr. Skinner then erected the brick building later occupied by W. W. Johnson as a clothing store, and engaged for a few years more in the mercantile business, part of the time alone and part of the time in company with William Hazelton. In 1879, when the Minneapolis & St. Louis built through Albert Lea, Mr. Skinner left the mercantile business and erected the first large elevator ever built in Freeborn county. He later bought an elevator at Twin Lakes, and for some time was actively engaged in the grain business. About 1882, in company with his brother, John E. Skinner, he formed the R. B. Skinner Milling Company, which was successfully operated as a flour mill until 1905, when it was sold to a Minneapolis firm. Since 1905 Mr. Skinner has not been actively engaged in business, though he has maintained an office downtown and has bought and sold considerable land. In 1868 he was married to Martha J. Eliot, of Hawley, Mich., who died in 1910. As a result of this union four sons were born: Herbert E., Theodore G., Ray P. and Robert M. The three former reside in Albert Lea, where they are engaged in business, and the latter





. R. B. SKINNER





resides at Baudette, Minn., where he is engaged in the banking business. Mr. Skinner was one of the original incorporators of the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association, was one of the first directors and assisted very materially in the formation of this company. He is a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea, and soon after the organization of this church was elected an elder, a position which he has held ever since. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge. While never active in politics, he has during his residence in Albert Lea been a member of the school board and has served one term as alderman from his ward, declining a re-election. He lives on Park avenue, is a thoroughly self-made man and has always had the best interests of Albert Lea at heart.

**Mrs. Robert B. Skinner** was born in New Hartford, Oneida county, New York, September 5, 1847, daughter of Rev. George Eliot, a Methodist minister, and moved to Mower county, Minnesota in 1866. In 1868 she was married to Robert B. Skinner, and moved to Albert Lea, where she resided until her death on February 19, 1910. She was one of the original members of the library board, and was one of the founders and early members of the old Albert Lea Hospital Association, now known as the Naeve Hospital. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church, and at her death was survived by her husband and four sons. Most of Albert Lea's pioneer women were women of strong mentality and of religious temperament. The excellent school system that the city now enjoys, the splendid church organizations, and the healthful moral tone of the community at large, is probably the outgrowth of the early influences of the county's noble band of pioneer women, whose ranks are fast growing thinner. Mrs. Skinner was one of these women, and her gentle sympathies and refining influences were always directed toward the uplift and betterment of the community.

**Hans W. Jensen**, secretary and sales manager of the American Gas Machine Company, of Albert Lea, was born near Copenhagen, Denmark, July 14, 1867, son of Nels Jensen and Anna (Felt-house) Jensen, who brought him to America and located in Rice-land township, Freeborn county, July 4, 1868. Some two and a half years later he was taken by them to Bath township, and there grew to manhood. He attended the country and city schools, taught school for a while, and took a course at Pillsbury Academy, Owatonna, in this state, from which he was graduated in 1892. After teaching at Bancroft, this county, two years he entered Dennison University at Granville, Ohio, but had spent but three months of his second year there when he was called home by the death of his father. After settling up the estate, he came to Albert Lea with his mother and entered the employ of the Briggs



Drug Company for a year. The following year he spent in California, then returned to Albert Lea and became salesman for the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, now the International Harvester Company. He remained with this company fifteen years, was promoted from time to time, became cashier and assistant to the general agent, and remained with the agency four months after it was transferred to Mason City, Iowa. In January, 1910, he assumed the duties of his present position. He is also a stockholder and director in the same company. In politics Mr. Jensen votes independently. He is a thorough believer in work for young men, and is president of the City Sunday-School Association, president of the local Baptist Brotherhood, and also secretary of the Baptist State Brotherhood. He was a member of the Baptist State Convention Board two years and its auditor one year. The Albert Lea Business Men's League and the Albert Lea Auto Club both count him as an enthusiastic and active member. The subject of this sketch was married September 7, 1898, to Carrie M. Nelson, of Bath township. He is a trustee of Pillsbury Academy at Owatonna.

**Nels Jensen** was born in Denmark and there married Anna Felthouse. They came to America July 4, 1868, located in Rice-land township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, and there remained some two and a half years, subsequently moving to Bath township. There they farmed until his death, after which his wife came to Albert Lea, where she passed away ten years later. In the family were five children. Anna M. died at the age of sixteen years. Andrew N. still lives in Bath township. Nels P. attained considerable distinction in the Baptist denomination and became dean of the Scandinavian Theological Department of the University of Chicago. He died at Sierre Madre, Cal., in 1895. James C. is a successful real estate dealer in Albert Lea. Hans W. is secretary and sales manager of the American Gas Machine Company of Albert Lea.

**Henry J. Harm**, a jeweler of Albert Lea and president of the city council, was born in Boston, Mass., January 3, 1870, the son of John H. and Augusta Harm, both natives of Germany, who settled in the United States at the time of the Civil War, locating in Boston. The father was a wagon maker. Coming to Minnesota in the '70s, he located in St. Peter, where he remained for some time, then coming to Albert Lea. Here he worked at his trade up to the time of his death, which occurred during a visit to Boston in 1878. The mother died December 30, 1906. The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Albert Lea. Upon leaving school he learned the jewelers' trade, and in 1904 bought out Theo. E. Schleuder's jewelry stock at 211 South Broadway, where he still carries on a successful business. Mr. Harm was married to Anna Marx, daughter of Herbert Marx,



of Shakopee, on November 17, 1908. He is a Republican in his political affiliations, being chairman of the Republican County Committee, and is a loyal member of the Elks, Knights of Macabees. Mr. Harm is one of Albert Lea's progressive citizens. Washington street. It is worthy of note that Mr. Harm's energetic advocacy of a better and bigger Albert Lea has resulted in some of the city's most notable improvements.

**James F. Jones**, pioneer and prominent citizen, now deceased, was one of the real builders of the county, and the importance of the village of Geneva as a trading point in the early days was due to his sagacity, business ability and industry. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, June 15, 1822. When quite young he was apprenticed, as was often the custom in those days, to a tanner, and subsequently mastered the trade of tanner, currier and shoemaker. At the age of twenty-one years he married Adelpha Moon, and after a few days the young couple started with a team of horses, a covered wagon, and some household goods for Milwaukee. Just before reaching their destination Mr. Jones was taken ill with a fever and was compelled, by reason of ill health, to spend the winter with his brother in that city. In the following spring he took up some land, but the subsequent year sold out and moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he purchased a farm. Three years later his health again failed, and, taking his wife, he returned to New York state, where he engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes. Every winter he brought the product of his labor to Wisconsin, traded the footwear for wheat, had the wheat made into flour at Janesville, and then shipped the flour from Milwaukee to Buffalo, where it was sold. He continued in this way for three years. Then he again took up his residence on his farm in Rock county. In 1856 he came to Freeborn county, bringing a stock of merchandise. With Capt. James Robson he pre-empted the site of Geneva, platted a village, established a hotel and a general store, and engaged in these pursuits, combined with general farming. At the time of the Civil War the partnership was dissolved, and Captain Robson went to the front, where he was killed. Mr. Jones continued to live in Geneva, and with the passing of the years prospered and accumulated large tracts of land, becoming one of the substantial moneyed men of the county. He died in 1900 and his death was sincerely mourned. James F. and Adelpha (Moon) Jones were the parents of six children: Hiram, Eugene, Helen, Adelle, Jay and Mark. Mrs. Jones died in 1890.

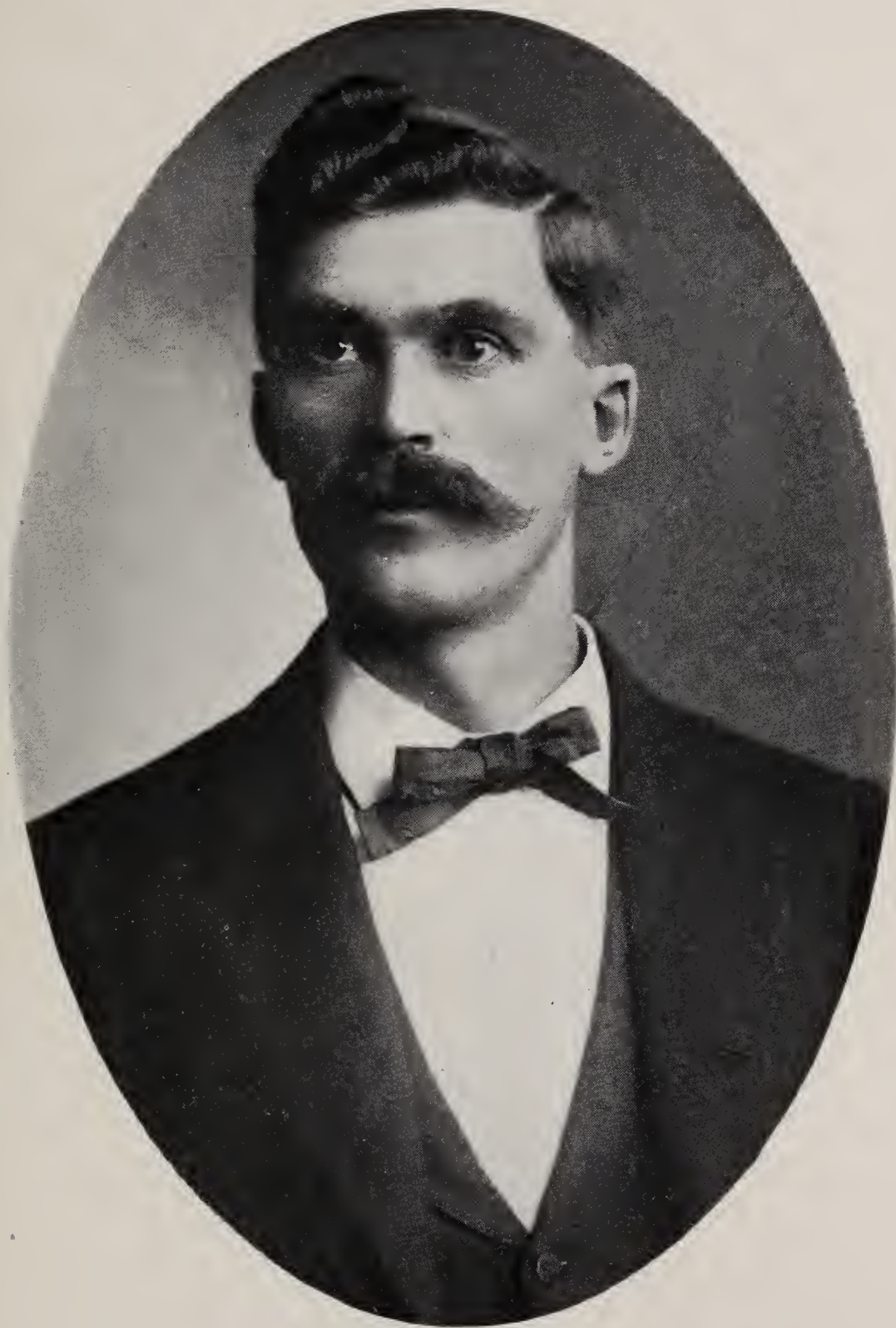
**Mark M. Jones** is one of the well-known business men of southern Minnesota. Receiving his training under his father, James F. Jones, the sagacious founder of Geneva, and coming to Albert Lea as a young man, he has established his place in the



business, social and political life of the county. His business of writing fire, windstorm, life and accident insurance is one of the largest in this part of the state, and while he makes no parade of the volume of business done in his office, insurance authorities declare that more than two-thirds of the fire insurance written in Albert Lea passes through his hands. He has done his share toward the upbuilding of Albert Lea by erecting, in 1903, in company with Dr. A. C. Wedge, the beautiful Wedge-Jones block, a two-story structure of light brick trimmed with stone, located at the corner of Broadway and Main street. Born October 27, 1865, Mark M. Jones received his earlier education in Geneva, the place of his birth, and later attended a commercial college at Decorah, Iowa. He worked with his father until twenty-one years of age and then engaged in the mercantile business in Geneva for three years. After that he came to Albert Lea and worked in the First National Bank two years. This work was too confining, so he entered the drug business with Wedge & Barlow and stayed with them two years. Later he engaged in his present business. His offices in the Wedge-Jones building are among the best equipped in the state. Although he has many times refused to run for office, Mr. Jones served as a member of the city council eight years and was president of that body four years, his influence ever being toward the upbuilding and progress of the city. He belongs to Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.; Osman Temple, of St. Paul, A. A. O. N. M. S.; Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, K. of P.; Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E.; Albert Lea Lodge, No. 61, I. O. O. F., and Cincapin Camp, No. 835, M. W. A. The subject of this sketch was married in 1893 to Mamie Wedge, daughter of Dr. A. C. Wedge. She died in 1905, leaving one son, Albert, born July 13, 1895. Mr. Jones and his son still make their home with Dr. and Mrs. Wedge.

**Robert Anderson** was born in Chicago, July 24, 1864. His parents, Erick and Marie Anderson, came from Denmark to America in 1864 and located at Racine, Wis., where they remained five years. In 1869 the family came to Freeborn county, where Erick Anderson obtained land and established a farm and home in Bath township. Here he remained until his death, in 1888. His wife survived him until 1897. Their son, Robert, was educated in the schools of the county and after leaving school clerked in the drug store of Barlow & Spicer, of Albert Lea, for twelve years. In 1897 he was elected to the office of register of deeds of Freeborn county, in which responsible position he was retained for ten years. Following this he accepted the position of assistant cashier of the Freeborn County State Bank, in which position he is still retained. In 1890 Robert Anderson was united in marriage to Marie Torgenson, and two children have blessed





ROBERT ANDERSON





their home—Eulalia and Robert, Jr. Mr. Anderson is a progressive citizen and interested in all that helps to advance his home town and county. He is a vigorous Republican politically, and an influential member of the Norwegian Synod, and is also connected with the Modern Woodmen's Lodge and the Danish Brotherhood. He is at present serving the public as clerk of the school board, and served four years as alderman of the Second Ward. He is also abstractor for Freeborn county.

**T. L. Torgenson**, a respected citizen of Albert Lea, was born in Norway, August 6, 1848, son of Lars and Anna Torgenson, who brought him to America in 1853. The family lived in Clayton county, Iowa, until the spring of 1860, when they came to Minnesota and located in Manchester township, the father dying in 1869 and the mother in 1893. T. L. attended the district school and remained on the farm until 1875, when he moved to Freeborn village and drove a stage from there to Albert Lea for the government. In 1877 he moved to Albert Lea. He was deputy sheriff fifteen years and was also one of the pioneer auctioneers of the county. At the incorporation of the city of Albert Lea he was one of the first police officers. Some years ago he retired, and now lives at 305 South Newton street. The subject of this sketch was married April 2, 1867, to Anna M. Fossum, and this union has been blessed with six children—Anna M. is the wife of Robert Anderson, of Albert Lea; L. P. lives in Albert Lea; Nora, now Mrs. Beckwith, lives in Portland, Oregon; George A., Theadora V. and Olive M. all live in Albert Lea.

**S. L. Hanson**, manager of the G. A. Olson Manufacturing Company, is a native of Freeborn county, having been born here on August 16, 1869, the son of Ole Hanson Indahl and Gunild (Bagaason) Hanson, natives of Norway. The father was a farmer in Norway and came to America about 1852. He remained in Wisconsin and Illinois a short time and in 1856 came to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn county, Bancroft township, where he farmed until his death in 1896. The mother still lives in Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch attended the district schools of Bancroft and later the Luther Academy, of Albert Lea, graduating from the commercial department in 1893. Leaving school, Mr. Hanson clerked in a store for about eight years and then entered the hardware business in partnership with his brother, C. J. Hanson, and Frank Hillebrand. They established the firm of Hanson-Hillebrand Hardware Company, continuing in this until 1904. At this time they consolidated with the Hille Hardware Company and incorporated under the firm name of Jewel Hardware Company. Mr. Hanson sold out his interests in the fall of 1909. In the year 1903 the subject, with G. A. Olson and Alfred Christopherson, established what is known as the G. A. Olson Manu-



facturing Company, manufacturers of farm appliances. Mr. Hanson has taken an active part in the business since 1904 and spends his time during the winter months on the road for the firm. Ida Anderson became his wife in 1904, and their home has been blessed with two children—Oren Ellen and Magdalene Louise. Mr. Hanson is an independent voter and attends the Norwegian Lutheran Church. He makes his residence at 206 Adams avenue. Mr. Hanson is an up-to-date and progressive business man, and is always interested in the welfare of his home city.

**O. C. Hayden**, a progressive clothing merchant of Albert Lea, was born in Black Hawk county, Iowa, March 25, 1852, the son of O. M. and Eleanor (Session) Hayden, natives of Connecticut and New York, respectively. The father was a farmer and came to Iowa about 1852, locating in Black Hawk county. He farmed there a number of years and then went to Nebraska, where he entered the clothing business. After being there some fifteen years, he went into Canada, where he conducted a clothing business until the time of his death in 1909. His wife died in 1908. The subject of this sketch attended the district schools of Iowa and went one term to Grinnell Academy in Iowa. Leaving school, he worked on the farm and ran threshing machines. About 1877 he came to Freeborn county, where he farmed and auctioneered about five years, after which Mr. Hayden entered the mercantile business at Glenville. The next few years he was in business in Albert Lea and Twin Lakes, then going to Duluth, where he was in the commission business. At the end of two years Mr. Hayden established a wholesale grocery in Duluth. In 1890 he sold out this business and came to Albert Lea, going into a general merchandise business in partnership with W. F. Gage, the firm name being Gage-Hayden Company. Mr. Hayden was the buyer and manager of the clothing department. In 1902 Mr. Hayden sold out and entered the clothing and shoe business in the Nissen Block and later in the Wedge-Jones Block, where he was president of O. C. Hayden & Co., Inc., a general department store. About 1908 his stock was burned out and he established another clothing and shoe business. He now has one of the finest equipped stores of its kind in the state and does a most flourishing business. In the year 1873 Mr. Hayden was united in marriage to Lottie Burnham, daughter of Julius and Julia A. Burnham. To their home have been born three children—Julius Clyde, a lawyer in Escanaba, Mich.; Wynne, M. D., of Sedan, Kas.; Victor, who died when eighteen months old. In his political life Mr. Hayden is a Democrat, and he affiliates with the Congregational Church. He is a faithful member of the Masonic and Woodmen fraternities, but never aspired to any public office. His pleasant home is situated at 1102 Ermina street.



**C. C. Hansen**, one of Albert Lea's progressive grocers, is a native of Denmark, born on September 10, 1867, the son of H. P. and Marie Nelson, both natives of Denmark. They came to America in 1867 and located at Albert Lea. H. P. followed his trade as a blacksmith and farmed at Clark's Grove until 1880, when he removed to Martin county. In 1885 he returned to Albert Lea, and in 1900 retired from active work. He now lives with his son, his wife having died August 17, 1885. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools of Freeborn county. Leaving his studies, he worked on the farm with his father until 1885, when he was employed by a grocery firm in Albert Lea. In 1902 Mr. Hansen established a grocery business in partnership with J. C. Lampert. This partnership was dissolved in March, 1909, Mr. Hansen now being the sole owner of the business. In 1888 he was married to Mary Jensen, daughter of Soren and Anna Jensen, formerly of Clark's Grove, but now of Albert Lea. To their home have been born seven children—Edna, now Mrs. Thos. V. Shinofield; Melvin, with his father in business; Ruby, Ervin, Russell, Elva and Florence, all at home. Mr. Hansen is a Prohibitionist, and attends the Baptist Church. He is a loyal member of the M. W. A. Lodge, but never aspired to the holding of any public office. His home is situated at 105 First avenue.

**Hans C. Hanson**, president of the American Gas Machine Company, is a native of Denmark, having been born in that country on September 5, 1870, the son of Rasmus and Margaret. The father was a blacksmith in Denmark and followed his trade up to the time of his death, in 1880. The subject of this sketch gained his education in his native land. In 1887 he and his mother came to America and located in Albert Lea, where he followed the blacksmith trade until 1897, when he entered partnership with C. D. Edwards and manufactured the American gas-light machine. Mr. Hanson manufactured them himself on a small scale, and three years later bought out Mr. Edwards and took Thomas H. Hjort in as a business partner. In 1903 they incorporated, making Mr. Hanson president; Mr. Hjort, vice-president; Fred Larson, secretary, and Edward Olson, treasurer. Since their incorporation the company has doubled its capacity every two years. They have just completed a new brick building with 75,000 feet of floor space, at a cost of \$100,000, on East Clark street. On October 5, 1899, Mr. Hanson was married to Lena Nelson, daughter of C. Nelson, of Clark's Grove. They have one child—Russell. Mr. Hanson is a Prohibitionist, and attends the Baptist Church. His home is situated at 121 Lake street. He is one of Albert Lea's most progressive citizens and is highly esteemed by all the community.



**W. L. Beedle**, the superintendent of the water works system, is a native of Winterset county, Iowa, born March 25, 1874, the son of A. C. and Rachel Beedle. They are natives of Iowa and still farm at Madison county in that state. The subject of this sketch attended the graded schools of Iowa, and upon leaving his studies worked as a stationary engineer. He came to Minnesota in 1891 and located in Albert Lea, where he followed his trade until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. He then joined the Thirteenth Minnesota, Company F. At the close of the war Mr. Beedle came back to Albert Lea and took charge of the engines at the pumping station. Later he was made assistant superintendent and is now superintendent of the system. In the year 1903 he was married to Mabel Lund, of St. Charles, Minn. They have one little girl, Helen. Mr. Beedle is a member of the Yeoman and the Spanish-American War Veterans. In Governor Johnson's first administration he was appointed state boiler inspector of Freeborn county. Mr. Beedle is now city inspector of gas and electric meters. He makes his home at 835 Newton street.

**Gustavus W. Barck, M. D.**, was born in Sweden May 10, 1832, the son of Gustavus O. and Frederika (Lindquist) Barck. The father was a Swedish Lutheran clergyman and never left his native land. The subject of this sketch received a general and medical education in Sweden, graduating from the medical college in 1853, when he came to Boston and practiced his profession for three years. He served in the army one year as a physician. In 1864 he came to Winona, where he followed his profession three years, after which he removed to Albert Lea, Freeborn county, where he has since practiced medicine, having spent a portion of the time in Freeborn village. In 1867 he was united in marriage to Amelia A. Dunn, daughter of Squire Dunn, of Freeborn village. Seven children have blessed their home, of which only three are now living: Gustavus U., a resident of Glendo, S. D., where he owns a claim, is postmaster and county superintendent of schools. Horace is in Albert Lea, where he acts as manager for the Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., Florence A. married Fred Brown, a Minneapolis broker. Dr. Barck is a consistent Democrat, but has paid more attention to his profession than to politics. He has been president of the Medical Society of the county for two years and has also served as health commissioner for fourteen years and member of the examining board of the pension office. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge, Blue Lodge Chapter Commandery of Albert Lea since 1873. Dr. Barck owns property in Freeborn village and calls that his home, but has now retired from active practice, only calling occasionally on an old friend in a professional way. His good wife died May 6th, 1894, at Freeborn village.





W. L. BEEDLE





**C. E. Brainerd**, the popular auditor of Freeborn county, is a native of Broome county, New York, where he began life March 23, 1854. His father, James C. Brainerd, was a minister of the gospel; his mother, Elmira Farrington, a native of Pennsylvania. The family came west to Wisconsin in 1854, where they remained until 1874, when they removed to Illinois. Here they stayed about five years and again drifted West to Kansas, where the mother died in 1889 and the father in 1905. C. E. Brainerd was educated at Spring Green Wisconsin High School. After leaving school he followed railroading from 1871 to 1877. Being dissatisfied with this kind of work, he went to Iowa and learned the milling trade, which he followed for ten years in that state. In 1883 he came to Minnesota, where he continued in the milling business for four years. At this time the mill in which Mr. Brainerd worked in Albert Lea was destroyed by fire. Deciding to try a change of employment, he formed a partnership with O. S. Stieler and established a meat market, which the firm conducted for four years, when Mr. Brainerd sold his interest to his partner and clerked in a general merchandise store for a year, after which he returned to meat cutting. In the fall of 1900 he was elected city clerk of Albert Lea, in which office he was continued for the next six years, until 1906, when he was elected county auditor, which office he still holds. In 1883 C. E. Brainerd was married to Elizabeth Brown. They have no children. Mr. Brainerd is a genial, public-spirited man and an enthusiastic lodge man, being a member of Masonic Blue Lodge Chapter, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and Elks, and was assistant chief of the Albert Lea Fire Department for twenty years. He has always been an ardent Republican and in 1892 served as treasurer of the city.

**Theodore Bell** was born in Bancroft township, June 14, 1876. His parents, John and Ingor Bell, were natives of Norway but came to America with their respective parents at an early date, John Bell, having arrived in Wisconsin in 1856, where his family remained two years before coming to Freeborn county, where they located in Riceland township, and his father did a general farming business until his death in 1888. The mother died in Norway before the removal of the family to America. In the summer of 1867 John Bell started in business for himself by purchasing a small tract of land which he sold shortly after and bought 160 acres in Bancroft township, having 100 acres under cultivation. He lived on this farm for several years before trading it for city property in Albert Lea, where he made his residence for two years, after which he removed to Marion county and carried on a farming business for ten years. Returning to Pickarel Lake township, Mr. Bell bought 200 acres of land, on which he lived and cultivated until 1903, when he again exchanged the



farm for a residence in Albert Lea, where he still resides with his wife. Mr. Bell served his adopted country loyally during the last year of the Civil War in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. He has always remained in sympathy with the Republican party and is a faithful member of the Lutheran church. While he has always been interested in public affairs he never aspired to hold public office. Theodore Bell, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the schools of Bancroft township and Martin county and later worked on his father's farm till 1903, when he began work for himself. In 1904 he purchased the grocery, confectionery and notion business of John Rusfeldt, located at the corner of East Clark and Newton streets, and in 1910 sold a half interest in his business to Emil Johnson, the firm name becoming Bell & Johnson. In June, 1906. Theodore Bell and Lena Wangen were united in marriage. Mrs. Bell is a native of Norway, having come to America in 1902. Their home is gladdened by four children: Joseph, Gladys, Clifford and Thelma. Mr. Bell is an active Republican and a consistent Lutheran, also a member of the Sons of Norway.

**Charles T. Helgeson**, register of deeds of Freeborn county, was born of Norweigian parents on a farm near Waupun, Wis., Dec. 10, 1869. His boyhood was spent on the farm and he received the usual common school training at the district school. At the age of seventeen young Helgeson entered college with the intention of pursuing the regular classical course. He continued his studies for some time, but for lack of funds was obliged to leave before completing his course and return to the farm. Here his life, like that of many other farmers' boys in needy circumstances, was one of hard and unremitting toil. But nothing daunted by the obstacles that lay in his pathway, he finally reëntered college. Here he worked with diligence and determination born of that quality of courage that has for life's goal a large degree of success and usefulness. But his intense application to his studies and undue exposure brought about a serious illness, and as a result of his sickness and because of scanty means at his command, he was obliged to discontinue his work as a student during the next two years. Realizing that his meager resources would not enable him to complete the regular college course within a reasonable time, he finally decided to devote his time and attention to commercial studies with a view to fitting himself for an instructor of business methods. Before he gave up the quest for knowledge along this line Mr. Helgeson had received a wide and unusually comprehensive training as will be seen from the list of different educational institutions at which he studied. These included Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; Normal University, Val-



paraiso, Ind.; State Normal, Madison, S. D.; Archibald Business College, Minneapolis.

In 1897 Mr. Helgeson located in Albert Lea, which city he has ever since resided in. He first entered into the employ of the Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Later the Consolidated Fire and Marine. Subsequently he acted as the stenographer and confidential secretary of the late Hon. John A. Lovely. It was during his employment by Mr. Lovely that hostilities broke out between the United States and Spain. Mr. Helgeson responded to the call for volunteers and enlisted as a private in Company I, Twelfth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He served in the army until the close of the active campaign in Cuba. During a portion of the time of his service in the conflict in which the United States freed from the domination of Spanish tyranny the oppressed Cubans he was detailed as stenographer and special clerk at brigade headquarters. In this work he had personal charge of the morning reports for the several regiments constituting the brigade to which he belonged.

At the close of the Spanish War, Mr. Helgeson returned to his home in Albert Lea. He soon accepted a position as principal of the commercial department of Luther Academy and continued in this work for three years. But he was not content to remain in a subordinate position, however worthy it might be, and with characteristic energy he set about to carry out his long cherished plans to found an institution which should be peculiarly his own. In the summer of 1901 he established the Albert Lea Business College. This school has, ever since its inception, been conducted solely upon its merits and has met with merited success and appreciation.

In 1910 Mr. Helgeson was elected register of deeds of Freeborn county. He continues to fill that position with the same fidelity and success that has marked every endeavor of his life.

**Warren Buel**, one of Albert Lea's substantial retired citizens, has a long and varied career, which began at Bergen, Genesee county, New York, December 4, 1825. His parents, Warren and Harriet Buel, were New England bred, the father from Massachusetts, the mother from Connecticut. Warren Buel, Sr., followed farming in New York until 1837, when he removed to Ohio, where he remained on a farm until his death. Mrs. Buel also died in Ohio. The subject of this sketch received his early education in New York and Ohio, completing with a course in the Norwalk Seminary. After leaving college he taught for several years in the city and district schools in different parts of the state. In 1852 he married Mary Deming, a native of Genesee county, New York. The young people decided to try country life and moved to a farm in Ohio, where they lived about six years.



In 1859 they drifted farther west and spent one year on a farm near Ann Arbor, Mich. Selling this farm property, they moved to Jackson, in the same state, where Mr. Buel engaged in the grocery business during the war period. At the close of the war he decided to go still farther west, and sold his grocery business to invest in a drove of sheep which he brought to Steele county, Minnesota, twelve miles from Owatonna, where he remained only one year, when he exchanged his sheep for a farm in Pickerel Lake township, Freeborn county. Here Mr. Buel carried on a general and dairy farming business for twelve years and then exchanged his farm for the city residence which he now occupies and a store building on South Broadway, where he established a grocery business, in which he continued for two years. The grocery business not agreeing with Mr. Buel's health, he sold out to Raymond Bros. & Prentice and turned his attention to real estate, loans, bonds, insurance, etc., and continued along this line till 1907, when he retired, although his reputation for square dealing still forces considerable real estate business upon him. Mr. Buel has always been active and interested in public affairs, was a member of the legislature in 1872, and for many years was vice president of the Albert Lea Building and Loan Association. He was interested in locating a colony on the James river, naming his new town Ashton. but the railroad company refused to coöperate with the town site proprietor and established the town of Redfield on the prairie some distance from Mr. Buel's town of Ashton. He assisted in the organization of the Presbyterian college at Albert Lea and has served the public as a member of the town board and other positions of trust. Mr. Buel is a thorough business man and has always been active in buying and selling real estate. Being obliged to spend some months in California on account of ill health, he engaged in the real estate business in Los Angeles. Although now an elderly man he finds it hard to give up his life-long business habits.

**C. R. Fellows**, who is employed by the Swan Elevator Company, was born in Cooperstown, N. Y., on February 6, 1856, the son of R. R. and Celia Fellows, natives of New York and England respectively. The father was a veterinary surgeon and came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, in an early day. He followed his profession up to the time of his death. The mother lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa. at the age of eighty-five years. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the common schools of Wisconsin. When he left school he worked out and came to Minnesota in 1878, locating in Albert Lea. For several years following he worked out on farms and then bought 160 acres in Alden township, where he farmed until 1896. At this time he rented his farm and moved to Albert Lea. Mr. Fellows bought



a tract of twelve acres on the north side of Fountain Lake and there has raised fruit and poultry. In 1908 he entered the employment of the Swan Elevator Company and still remains at this work. In 1881 Mr. Fellows was united in marriage to Ella Chamberlain and their home has been blessed with one child, Lottie B., who is bookkeeper for Skinner, Chamberlain Co. Mr. Fellows is a Republican and his family attends the Methodist church. He is a loyal member of the I. O. O. F., and has served as town treasurer of Alden township and also been a member of the town school board. His home is situated at 627 Water street.

**J. E. Murtaugh**, a postoffice clerk in Albert Lea and the owner of the Casino, was born in Albert Lea township on October 16, 1873, the son of J. W. and Chloe (Knapp) Murtaugh, natives of New York and Ohio respectively, fourth child of a family of thirteen children. J. E. Murtaugh gained his education in the district schools of Albert Lea township and three months in the graded schools of Glenville. At the age of seventeen he came to Albert Lea and entered the employ of Halvorson & Luce on "The Enterprise," at which work he remained for over eight years. He spent several months in Austin on "The Register," then returned to Albert Lea and worked on "The Times." He remained there until 1901, when he took the civil service examination and was appointed clerk at the postoffice under V. Gillrup, which position he still occupies. Mr. Murtaugh is the night clerk just now. On April 1, 1910, he went into partnership with Louis Larson and established the Casino, a dancing pavilion, owning eighteen row boats, one large passenger launch and one small launch. In July Mr. Murtaugh bought out Mr. Larson's interest and is now sole owner of the Casino. He gives public dances twice every week in the summer season. On July 3, 1894, he was married to Mathilda Larson, a native of Denmark. She came, with her parents, to this country, locating in Bancroft township, where her father still carries on a general farming business. Mr. and Mrs. Murtaugh's home has been blessed with two children: Pearl and Olive. Politically Mr. Murtaugh has affiliated himself with the Republican party. He attends the Presbyterian Church and is an enthusiastic member of the Macabee Lodge, having been commander for three years and recorder for seven years. Mr. Murtaugh is a substantial citizen of Albert Lea.

**Iver Clausen**, a retired farmer now residing in the city of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark July 15, 1839. He grew to manhood in his native land and there was educated for a musician, becoming a violin player of considerable talent. In May, 1887, Mr. Clausen came to America. He landed in New York and



later came to Minnesota, where he settled on a farm in Albert Lea. For several years he was engaged in general farming and also gave music lessons. In 1907 the subject of this sketch sold his farm and since that time he has lived in retirement. He was married in Denmark January, 1861, and to himself and wife six children were born. The wife and mother passed away in 1903. Mr. Clausen belongs to the Lutheran Church.

**H. C. Carlson**, an able attorney of Albert Lea, was born in Freeborn county February 22, 1872, son of Adolph and Doratheia Carlson, natives of Denmark. He received his boyhood education in the district schools of Riceland township and spent the larger part of his youth with his uncle, Christian Larson, in that township. He graduated from the Albert Lea High School in 1892, and then took a special course of two years in the University of Minnesota. Subsequently he studied law two years in the office of W. E. Todd, and then took a one-year course at the Columbia School, Washington, D. C. Upon his return he took up the practice of law with his preceptor and this partnership continued until Mr. Todd's death, November 11, 1899. After this Mr. Carlson practiced alone until 1907, when he entered into partnership with H. H. Dunn, the present speaker of the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. Mr. Carlson is president of the Albert Lee school board and votes the Republican ticket. Being of a sociable nature he has allied himself with Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, K. of P., and Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E. He attends the Episcopal Church, of which his wife is a member. The subject of this sketch was married January 16, 1901, to Mabel Du Toit, of Schaska, Minn., and this union has been blessed with three bright children: Margaret Mabel, Ruth Elenore and Henry Clay. The family residence is pleasantly located on Park avenue.

**Adolph Carlson**, now deceased, was prominently identified with the Danish Baptist movement in this county in the earlier days. He was born in Denmark, came to America in the sixties and located in La Crosse. Later he came to this state, located in Bath township, this county, and farmed for many years. He was an active religious worker and remained prominent in church work until his death, in 1902. His wife, whose maiden name was Doratheia Carlson, died in 1887.

**A. C. Bremer**, one of the prosperous farmers of Albert Lea township, was born in Louisiana July 7, 1843. He is the son of Charles and Henrietta (Hunke) Bremer. His parents came to the United States in 1835 and settled in Louisiana. His father was a shoemaker by trade and later conducted a shoe store. Still later he became a minister and preached to the negroes. He died of consumption in 1848. His wife died in 1906. The subject of





AUGUST BREMER AND FAMILY

$$\begin{array}{r} 63 \\ 43 \\ \hline 1810 \end{array}$$



this sketch was educated in the public schools of Iowa, where his mother settled in 1850. He was the only boy, having one sister, Julia, now living in Pasadena, Cal. In 1863 he removed to Minnesota and took up a homestead in Pickeral Lake township, Freeborn county, where the Clover Creamery now stands. He remained there for twelve years. In 1887 he sold the farm and bought his present 200 acres of land in Albert Lea township, where he has since lived. He carried on very successfully general farming for many years. He has now retired and the conduct and management of the farm has been turned over to his boys. Mr. Bremer was always especially attracted by live stock and dairying and Short Horn cattle, Chester White and Poland China hogs are still the pride of the farm. The farm has a fine house and splendid barns and its improvements and cultivation are a tribute to the years of patient industry bestowed upon its acres by Mr. Bremer.

In 1873 Anna Kluckow, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kluckow, of Pickeral Lake township, became Mrs. A. C. Bremer. Her parents came to Minnesota from Germany in 1872. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bremer, all of whom are living. They are: Clara, Otto, Emil, August, William, Edward, Henry and Emma. In politics Mr. Bremer is a Republican. He has never held public office. He is a member of the G. A. R. and had quite a strenuous war record. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B, Third Iowa Cavalry, and served in the South. In 1863 he again enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry and saw service in the Yellowstone against the Indians. At one time he was one of forty soldiers who were sent to guard and protect 400 emigrant wagons. They were surrounded for nineteen days by the Indians, but reënforcements came and relieved them just as they had given up all hope of being saved from general massacre. He was honorably discharged in 1865 at Fort Snelling and returned home to take up the work on the farm again.

**I. Luther Ingbritsen**, now engaged in the abstract business in Albert Lea, has taken an active part in the official life of St. Paul and Washington and is one of the leading citizens of this city. He was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, December 3, 1864, son of Knud and Sarah (Hopperstad) Ingebrigtson, who brought him to Riceland township, this county, in 1868. There he was reared to manhood, attending the public schools of his neighborhood, and the high school at Albert Lea. Later he took a course in the Curtiss Business College at Minneapolis. At the age of seventeen he started teaching school and followed this vocation four years in this county. In 1887 he came to Albert Lea, and on June 1, became assistant postmaster under D. K. Stacy, serving



until August 6, 1888. Then he was appointed deputy county auditor and remained in this capacity until his election as county auditor, the duties of which office he fulfilled from January, 1899, to January, 1907, being successively reëlected. Upon his retirement from this office he secured the appointment as assistant secretary of the Minnesota senate during the session of 1907. In June of that year he came back to Albert Lea and opened an abstract office. In the session of 1909 he again served as assistant secretary of the Minnesota senate, and during that session received the appointment as superintendent of the folding room of the house of representatives in the Sixty-first Congress. Upon his return from Washington, April 14, 1911, he resumed his residence in Albert Lea, and on June 1 he again embarked in his present business. Mr. Ingbritsen served one year as secretary of the Freeborn County Fair, and he was also a member of the first charter commission of the city of Albert Lea. He has not been an extensive "joiner," but is a popular member of the M. W. A. at Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was married April 7, 1890, in Bancroft township, to Caroline Bottolfsen, born in Bancroft township, February 27, 1867, daughter of Andrew and Irene (Berg) Bottolfsen, natives of Norway. This union has been blessed with three children: Evelyn Cornelia will graduate from the Mankato State Normal School in 1912. She was born December 25, 1890. Irving Stanley was born February 24, 1894, and is a pupil in the Albert Lea High School. Arnold Luther was born April 2, 1901, and is attending the public schools. The family resides at 929 Lake boulevard.

**Knud Ingebrigtson** was born in Norway and came to America in 1856 at the age of nineteen years. He located first in Rock county, Wisconsin, and was engaged several years in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin as a parochial school teacher. In Rock county he met and married Sarah Hopperstad, who came to America at the age of six years, in about 1846. For a short time after their marriage they remained in Rock county and then moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where Knut taught school some three years. In 1868 the family came to Freeborn county and located in section 17, Riceland township, where the parents spent the remainder of their days, Knut doing some teaching, but devoting most of his latter years to farming. The subject of this sketch died December 1, 1902, and his wife October 14, 1910. In the family were seven children. I. Luther lives in Albert Lea. The Rev. Johan Edward died March 28, 1909. Rev. Carl B. preaches in Billings county, North Dakota. Ellef G. is a merchant in Minneapolis. Anton C. is a farmer in Aitken county, Minnesota. Ida is the wife of Henry Vogelpohl, of St. Anthony



Park, Minn. Louisa is the wife of Charles G. Johnson, of Shelby, Minn.

**Albert Engblom**, who is of Swedish parentage, was born in Sweden September 11, 1875, son of J. M. and Bertha Engblom, who came to the United States in 1882 and settled in Albert Lea township on a farm adjoining the one which is now their home. They later acquired the land where they at present reside. Albert Engblom attended the country schools, and having completed his school work, he began regular work with his father on the farm. He and his father now farm together, the father owning eighty acres and the subject of this sketch forty acres. About 100 of this 120-acre tract are in cultivation, the remainder being chiefly meadow and hay land. They keep Chester White hogs and a number of good Short Horn grade cattle. The subject of this sketch was married to Anna Johnson in December, 1901, and to them two children were born: Ruby and Ruben, died at two years and six months. Mr. Engblom is a member of the Swedish Baptist Church. He consistently votes with the Prohibition party, but is not particularly interested in politics. The farm has been improved and the increasing crops have been grown by the hard work of the owners and the subject of this biography is known as one of the most energetic workers in this locality.

**W. S. Carey** is of Irish parentage and was born in Watertown, Wis., December 3, 1850. His father and mother, Dennis and Mary (Swift) Carey, came to the United States in 1846 and located in Pennsylvania, where they remained a short time, after which they came to Wisconsin and here engaged in farming until 1871, at which time they moved to Iowa. In 1909 the father died. The widow still survives him at the age of eighty-seven years, at Chester, Iowa. Their son, W. S., subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools of Wisconsin and later went to Iowa, where he remained but a short time and then came to Albert Lea. Here he settled in 1882 and for seven years was employed on the police force, after which he moved to his present home on the farm of 279 acres, which he owns. Thirty-nine acres of this farm are in Hayward township and the remaining 240 are in Albert Lea. Here Mr. Carey engages in general farming together with stock raising and dairying, preferring Short Horn cattle for this industry. He has raised many hogs to supply the markets and has been most successful with Chester White breed. As chairman of Albert Lea township for eight years and member of the town board Mr. Carey has shown his interest in the welfare of the community and his fourteen years of service as member of the school board proves him a man who has the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. He married Mary E. Phelan,



daughter of John Phelan, of Iowa, on January 14, 1880, and this marriage has resulted in nine children: John F., employed in Albert Lea; Gertrude, a teacher in the public school; William E., Terena, Sylvester, Genevieve, Bernard and Leonard at home; Dennis J., now deceased. Mr. Carey belongs to the Democratic party. He is a member of the Catholic Church, Catholic Order of Foresters and A. O. U. W. He was a stockholder in the Albert Lea Dairy Association, of which he was president for eight years.

**Chris Frandsen**, a progressive farmer and representative citizen of Albert Lea township, first saw the light of day in Denmark November 28, 1847. Twenty-seven years later, in 1872, he emigrated from his native land with his parents, Frands and Mariah (Jensen) Frandsen, and came to the United States. After their arrival in this country they came to Minnesota and located near Albert Lea, where the father, who had followed his trade as a carpenter and contractor for many years in Denmark, now retired from an active life and spent the remainder of his days in peace and comfort. His wife died in 1901 and he survived her for eight years. Chris, the subject of this biography, began his schooling in Denmark and later attended at Geneva, this state, for a term of four months, but since that time he has been a careful reader of instructive literature and so has greatly increased his store of knowledge. He married Erika Anstrum, daughter of Lewis and Christina Anstrum, in June, 1875, and to this marriage eight children have been born: Mamie, at home; Sena, living at Waterloo, Iowa; William, Emma, Holger, Julius, Mathilda and Herman. On his farm of 137 acres Mr. Frandsen is interested in stock raising and dairying in connection with his agricultural pursuits and he is one of the patrons of the Albert Lea Coöperative Creamery as well as a stockholder. His interests in the educational advancement of the township have been evidenced by his efficient service as member of the school board for a period of sixteen years. He is a Republican in political views and his religious faith is found in the teachings set forth by the Danish Lutheran Church of Albert Lea.

**L. C. Goetzke** is the son of August and Catherine (Toenges) Goetzke who came from Germany to the United States in the pioneer days and settled near what is now the great city of Chicago. The father followed general farming and spent his best years in this occupation both in the United States and in Canada. At the present time he makes his home with a daughter in Clover, Minn. L. C., the subject of this biography, was born in Cook county, Illinois, April 14, 1868, and at the age of two years he came to Minnesota, where he has since made his home. He began his early education in the public schools of Albert Lea and later attended college at St. Paul Park. He has since engaged



in successful farming and he also represented a publishing house for a short time. In 1893 Annie H. Klienke, daughter of Herman Klienke, now deceased, became his wife, and to them a son, Paul L., has been born. On his farm of 160 acres Mr. Goetzke keeps a good herd of dairy cows and disposes of their milk to the local creamery. He is one of the stockholders in the Albert Lea Creamery. He is affiliated with no lodge and is independent in his political views. Aside from serving on the school board at different periods he has given his best efforts to making his farm profitable and his home one of comfort.

**William Goetzke** was born in Chicago, Ill., October 8, 1869, son of August and Catherine (Tonges) Goetzke, who came to this country from Germany. They settled in Canada for a short time, after which they moved to Chicago, where the father secured employment in the lumber yards, and in 1870 they came to Minnesota, where their son, William, received his education. Completing his education, he began to work on the farm and has made this his chosen occupation since. He owns 227 acres of land and carries on a general farming and dairying business. He is one of the stockholders in the local creamery, where he disposes of his dairy product. Mary Flindt, daughter of Claus and Annie (Sipple) Flindt, became his wife on October 20, 1898. Mr. Goetzke has made many improvements on his farm and has a fine house and good barns which are a comfort to himself and family and a pleasing point of interest in the locality. Among the various offices which he has held in his township is that of road overseer, in which office he gave general satisfaction. In his political interests Mr. Goetzke has independent views, believing it more important that the proper man should be elected than that the party organization should be supported. He was director on the creamery board of the Albert Lea Creamery and has served as vice president and director in the Farmers' Shipping Association.

**G. Lemke** is one of the progressive farmers of Albert Lea township. He was born November 1, 1862, in Cook county, Illinois, and came to Minnesota with his mother in 1870. He spent the earlier portion of his boyhood working on a farm and going to school. Reaching manhood, he purchased 153 acres of land and here has erected all the buildings which now stand on the place. He has also kept about ninety acres of his farm under cultivation and at the present time the prosperous condition of his place is due entirely to his own efforts. Katie Flindt, daughter of Claus and Anna Flindt, early settlers in the county, became the wife of Mr. Lemke on March 17, 1887, and seven children are the result of this union: Emma, William, Elsie, Mabel, Tillie, Edith and Claus. Mr. Lemke does general farming together with



stock raising and dairying. He worships at the Methodist Church and votes independently. His interest in educational matters is evidenced by his service on the school board of which he has been a prominent member. He was for some years a stockholder in the Albert Lea Creamery Association.

**D. C. Armstrong**, president of the Albert Lea State Bank, and one of the well-known citizens of Albert Lea, was born in Milan, Ohio, November 25, 1868. his father being DeWitt C. Armstrong. His mother was a sister of Thomas H. and Augustus Armstrong, both of whom had an important part in the upbuilding of Freeborn county. D. C. was reared in his native town, and in 1881 entered the employ of the First National Bank at Erie, Penn. In 1883 he came West at the invitation of his uncle, Thomas H. Armstrong, and located in Albert Lea, entering the employ of the old Freeborn County Bank, which his uncle had established. In this employ the subject of this sketch acted as collector and had charge of the elevators which the bank operated. In 1894 he became secretary and treasurer of the Albert Lea Milling Co. and remained in this position until 1902, when he accepted the cashiership of the then newly organized Albert Lea State Bank. In 1909 he became its president. Mr. Armstrong is a Republican in politics, has served as a member of the city council from the First Ward, and has been assistant treasurer of the Minnesota State Fair as well as treasurer of the Freeborn County Fair. He is president of the Business Men's League, has held various offices in the Presbyterian Church and is treasurer and trustee of the Albert Lea College. Mr. Armstrong was married in 1892 to Anna Hibbs, daughter of D. R. P. Hibbs, and to this union have been born two children, Clare H. and Dorothy.

**Martin Blacklin**, president and manager of the Albert Lea Corset Company, was born in Black Earth, Wis., on April 4, 1870, the son of Austin and Julia Blacklin, natives of Norway. They came to America in the early days and located in Wisconsin, where they remained until 1884. The father bought land in Riceland township, Freeborn county, where he is still farming. The subject of this sketch came to Albert Lea when eight years of age and lived with an uncle. He was educated in the public schools and in the high school of Albert Lea. Upon leaving school he worked in the Case Corset Company for sixteen years. In 1902 he organized a stock company and established the Albert Lea Corset Company. Mr. Blacklin employs about seventy-five hands and runs from sixty-five dozen upwards per day. In the year 1901 the subject was united in marriage to Emily Benson. Mr. Blacklin is an independent voter, a member of the Masons, K. of P., in which lodge he has held office for seventeen years.







JOHN E. SKINNER



He is also a member of the Elks, U. C. T. and Royal Arcanum. Mr. Blacklin has served on the city school board for three years. He owns his pleasant home on Fountain street.

**A. O. Bakken**, one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers of Albert Lea township, was born in Norway October 17, 1853. His parents, Ole Bakken and Kari (Enstad) Bakken, came to the United States in 1866 and located in Iowa, where Mr. Bakken worked as a carpenter and mason. In 1870 he removed to Freeborn county, where he purchased land and established a home and farm. Here he died in 1876. His wife survived him many years, until 1908. Of the ten children which were born to them six are still living: A. O. Bakken, Rachel, Alf, Methias, Ingri and Petra. A. O. Bakken, the subject of this sketch, has 440 acres of fine land, 350 of which are under the splendid cultivation of its owner. In 1882 he married Olava Stovern, and fifteen children have been born to them, eleven of whom are now living: Oswald, Albert, Rudolph, Frithjof (deceased), George (deceased), Laura, Selmer (deceased), Florence, Alma, Olga, Gerhard (deceased), Dwight, Freida and Hjalmar. Mr. Bakken is a first-class, all-around farmer, keeps forty-one fine grade cattle and sells his cream to the coöperative creamery at Albert Lea, of which he is a stockholder. He knows the value of thoroughbred stock and raises some of the finest Poland China hogs in the township. The Bakken home is one of the finest in this section, having all the modern improvements. All of these evidences of prosperity Mr. Bakken attributes to hard work. He is a Republican and a county optionist, and is interested in educational advancement, as is evidenced by his position on the board of St. Olaf College, at Northfield. Religiously Mr. Bakken is connected with the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Albert Lea. He served as clerk of the town of Albert Lea one year and is at present vice-president of the Manchester Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

**John E. Skinner**, for several years connected with the prosperous firm of Skinner, Chamberlain & Co. as department manager, is one of the substantial business men of Albert Lea, and an honored veteran of the Civil War. Mr. Skinner is a native of the Empire state, born in Ticonderoga, Essex Co., New York, September 6, 1837. He received such education as the primitive schools of his time and neighborhood afforded, and spent his youth and early manhood on a York state farm. In the early sixties he watched with interest the discussions which led to the Civil War, and resolved that in case of an open rupture between the North and South he would take up arms in defense of the Union. The outbreak of hostilities found him at Sun Prairie, Wis., and after setting his affairs to rights there and



bidding farewell to his parents, he enlisted in 1862 in the 29th Wis. Vol. Inf., serving subsequently with that regiment in the Army of the West. He saw much active service, was in many marches, skirmishes and campaigns, and demonstrated his courage at the important battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River, Vicksburg and Sabins Crossroads. In 1865, at the close of the war he was discharged at Shreveport, Tex., and mustered out at Madison, Wis., after which he returned to Sun Prairie in the latter state. Later, in July, 1865, he came to Freeborn county, to which place his parents, John P. and Polly (Bisby) Skinner, both now deceased, had immigrated during the first year of the Civil War. Upon his arrival here, the subject of this sketch clerked for a while, and later engaged in carpenter work and farming. At one time he engaged in the milling business in Albert Lea, buying and selling grain in considerable quantities. He assumed his position with the Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., at their organization. Of late years, Mr. Skinner has practically retired from active business, although he is still often at the store, and his advice and assistance are greatly appreciated there. He was town clerk for seven years, member of school board several years and member of the town board of supervisors a number of years. For many years Mr. Skinner has been actively identified with Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R. He was married in 1866 to Jane Gardner, and this union has been blessed with four children: Frank, Fargo, N. D.; Bert, manager of the Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., of Albert Lea; Lottie, wife of William Chamberlain, vice president Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., John G., of Red Lodge, Mont. The family residence is at 604 Clark street.

**Samuel Sherman Edwards**, one of Albert Lea's oldest citizens, is a native of Watertown, Conn., where his parents, Charles Goodwin Edwards and Sarah Maria (Foot) Edwards resided. They were descendants of English families the genealogical record dating back to 1635, the ancestors coming to this country and settling in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Samuel Sherman Edwards, the subject of this sketch, came to Albert Lea July 3, 1865 and soon after established a photograph business, building on Lot 11, Block 22, Broadway, and successfully conducted this business over thirty years. At this time he became interested in the organization, as a stockholder and director, in what is now the Albert Lea Light & Power Co.; first with his brother, C. G., and afterward with his brother, G. C., of Bridgeport, Conn. In 1871 Mr. Edwards was united in marriage to Bertha Maria Lunde, a native of Norway, who came to this country and to Freeborn county in 1869. Their children are Marie Elvira, Charles Goodwin and Russell Sherman. Charles is an electrician



and commercial man, Russell is a solicitor and bookkeeper, both for the Albert Lea Light & Power Co. Marie, wife of Lesley S. Whitcomb, is deceased. At the present time Mr. Edwards is engaged in the real estate business and is interested in all that makes for the advancement of Albert Lea, which has for so many years been his home. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges and has served both orders in official capacities. He was a member of the first organization of singers in the city and has continued to assist in the musical advancement of the city. The children of the family are all musicians. Mr. Edwards has three grandchildren, Marie and Beth Whitcomb, and Catherine, daughter of his son Charles, who married Alta Hess. Catherine died June 27, 1911, aged two years and eleven months.

**C. Andersen**, one of Albert Lea's up-to-date merchant tailors, was born in Denmark, March 26, 1869. He is the son of Andrew Larsen and Elsie Hansen who lived and died in their native land. Mr. Andersen received his education at Denmark, there grew to manhood, after which he learned the tailoring trade. The subject of this sketch came to the United States in 1889, locating in Albert Lea, where he continued to work at his trade of tailoring until 1905, when he established his present thriving business. 1893 Mr. Andersen was united in marriage to Rikke Clausen, daughter of Iver Clausen. They have five children: Arnold, Esther, Raymond, Helen and Albert. The Andersen residence is 407 East 3rd street. Mr. Andersen is a life-long Republican but very independent in his voting. He is a public spirited man and has been a member of the city council, and is a member of English Lutheran church.

**Andrew Boyum**, an Albert Lea tailor, was born in Norway on May 9, 1877, the son of Ingebrit and Syneva Boyum. The father was a farmer in Norway until his death. The mother now lives in Adams, Minn. The subject of this sketch attended school in his native land, and when fifteen years old, set sail for America with his mother. They located in Black Earth, Wis., where Andrew went to school and worked out on a farm, after which he went to Mt. Horeb, Wis., there learned the tailor trade. In 1896, they came to Minnesota, locating in Adams, Minn., where he worked in a general store for about two years, after which he came to Albert Lea (1898) and went to work in a tailor shop. In 1903, Mr. Boyum entered partnership with H. A. Hanson and established a tailoring business. This partnership was dissolved at the end of one year and a half. Mr. Boyum bought out Mr. Hanson's interests and now carries on an up-to-date tailor shop on West Clark street. He was formerly located at 109 East Clark street. In 1905, Mr. Boyum married Ause Bagley of Riceland township, they have one son, Ivan G., born



February 28, 1911. Mr. Boyum is a Republican and attends the Trinity Lutheran church. He belongs to the Sons of Norway and is a Mason. His residence is located over his tailoring establishment. He is a member of the Business Men's League of Albert Lea.

**Claus H. Flindt** is one of the substantial citizens of Albert Lea. With earnest perseverance he worked for the good of the county, developing his farm and serving in township office. His good wife has been an able helpmeet in all his undertakings, and they have reared a family which is much respected in the community. Together Mr. and Mrs. Flindt are spending their declining years in Albert Lea, reaping the fruits of a well deserved rest after so many years of patient toil and industrious endeavor. Claus H. Flindt was born in Germany, January 9, 1829, and in that country received his education. In May, 1855 he came to America and after spending a summer in New York, he located in Davenport, Iowa, for the winter. In the spring of 1856 he moved to Winona, then a small town, and there remained ten years. His residence in Freeborn county dates from 1866, in which year he came to Manchester township and acquired 160 acres. This land he improved, and on it successfully conducted general farming, gradually increasing his holdings until he was the owner of 490 acres of good land. Mr. Flindt's ability was recognized at once, and during practically his entire stay in the township he served on the board of supervisors, being chairman of that body for several years. While living in Manchester township Mr. Flindt helped to organize the Manchester Co-operative Creamery, and upon its organization was chosen manager, which position he held for five years. He also served for many terms as treasurer of his school district. In 1891 Mr. and Mrs. Flindt retired, and since then they have made their home in a pleasant residence which they purchased at 410 Court street. Mr. Flindt is a Republican in politics and cast his first vote for John C. Fremont. He has been a stockholder in the First National Bank of Albert Lea since its organization, and has also served as one of the directors. The subject of this sketch was married at Winona, July 24, 1860, to Anna Walburga, who was born in Germany, November 16, 1840, and came to America in 1855. This union has been blessed with eleven children, of whom ten are living. Clara is the wife of Abraham Young, of Buffalo Lake, Minn. William lives in Spencer, Iowa. Katherine is the wife of Gus. Lemke, of Pickerel Lake, this county. John married Lillian Dills and is now dead. Frank lives in Colorado. Emma is the wife of John Lampert, of Washington. Josephine married Herman Schuknecht, of LaGrange, Ill. Edward lives in Manchester township, this county. Mary is the wife of William Goetzke, of





MR. AND MRS. CLAUS H. FLINDT





Albert Lea township, this county. Anna and Ida are teachers in Albert Lea schools. The family faith is that of the German Methodist Episcopal church.

**O. F. Stieler** was born in Germany, December 3, 1863, and left the shores of his native land to seek his fortune in a new country in 1881. He came to America and settled in Alden township, Minnesota, where he worked in a meat shop for two years, after which he spent a short time in Wells. He then went to Albert Lea and was employed by the Brunden Brothers, large meat dealers. Three years later he worked for C. Richardson remaining with them for some time. He then opened a butcher shop in partnership with C. E. Brainard and two years later bought out his partner's interest and for the following sixteen years conducted the business on his own responsibility. His brother then purchased the business and Mr. Steiler moved to his farm where he resides at the present time. In 1887 he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Elizabeth Kaemmer, daughter of John Kaemmer a retired farmer of this county, to them have been born five children: Harold, Walter and Maxamillion; Helen Mary and Lawrence are dead. Mr. Steiler has eighty acres of land under careful cultivation and his house is modern in every respect, having been remodeled by him. His property is only one-half mile from the city limits of Albert Lea, thus giving his children the advantages of education offered in the public schools of that city. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge, 835, of Albert Lea, also belongs to the Elks Lodge of that city, and is a Yeoman. He has ever been an industrious man and owes all he has at the present time to his own hard work, a fact of which he is justly proud.

**John A. Gustaveson**, a liveryman of Albert Lea, was born in Sweden in 1870, the son of Isaac and Bengta Gustaveson. John A. came to America in the year 1881 and located in Albert Lea township at New Denmark. His parents came to the United States in 1888, they remained in Albert Lea township about one year and then bought a farm in Alden township, where the father farmed until 1903. He then retired and came to Albert Lea, where he lived until his death in 1906. The mother still lives in Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Freeborn and Faribault counties. Leaving school, he worked out on different farms. In the year 1888 John came to Albert Lea and clerked in a grocery store for three years. He established a livery business where the Hotel Albert now stands, in 1891 and continued there until 1908. He then built a brick building on the corner of Main and Newton streets. On July 7, 1910, Mr. Gustafson suffered a severe fire. However, he was fortunate in not losing any horses, though he lost several sleighs,

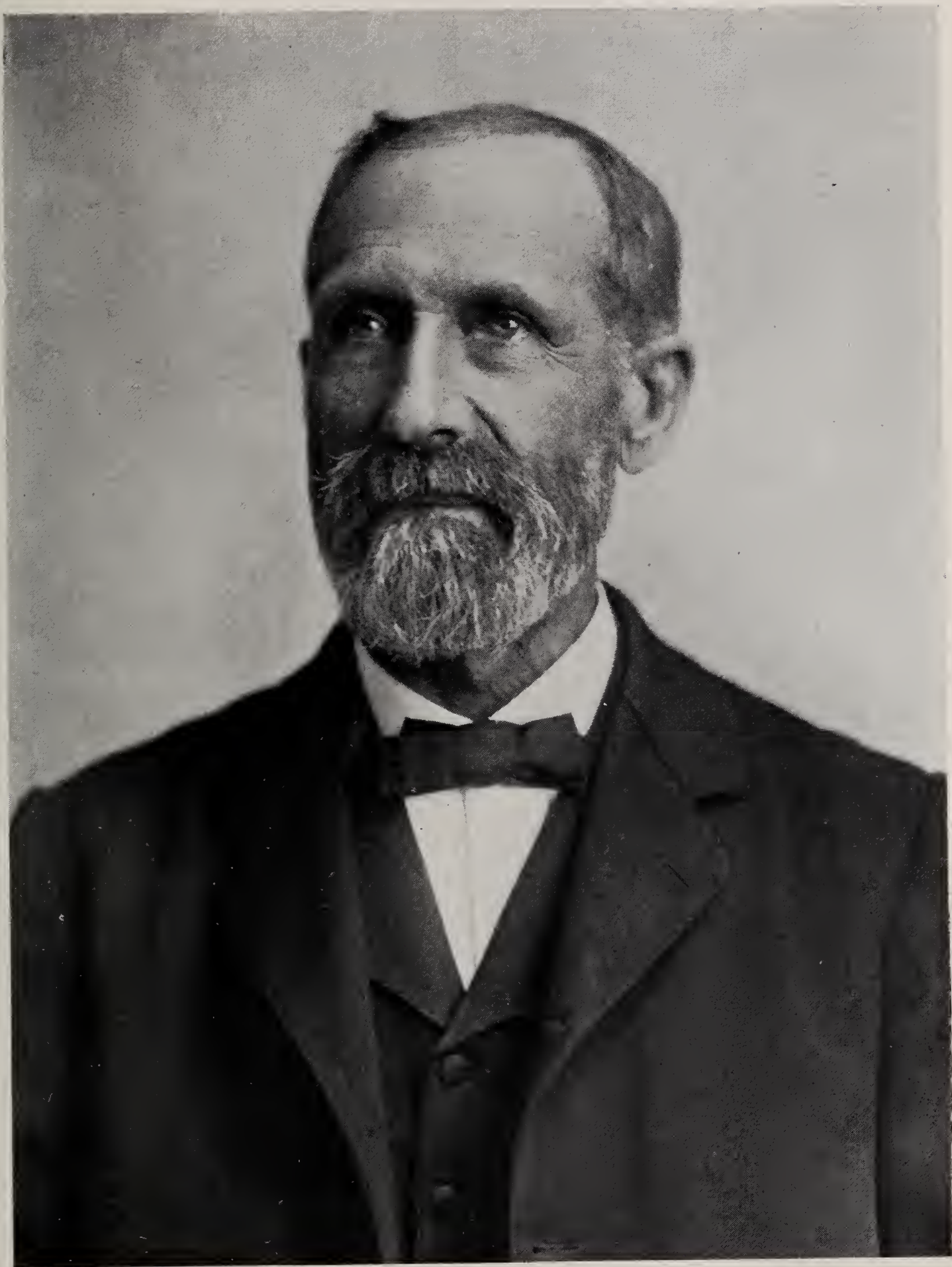


etc. At this time, Mr. Gustaveson rebuilt and now carries on an up-to-date livery. The subject was married in 1899 to Lena Quenvold, daughter of Hans Quenvold of Ellendale. They have one child, Ann Jeanette. Mr. Gustaveson in his political life is a Republican and attends the Lutheran church. He is a faithful member of the Elks, K. of P., I. O. O. F. and M. W. A., and has served as alderman from third ward for several years. At the present time he is on the school board, upon which board he has served six years. Mr. Gustaveson has been assistant chief of fire department for the past eleven years, and is now serving on the park board. Mr. Gustaveson lives at 110 St. Mary street.

**John G. Godley**, an honored veteran of the Civil War, and for a good many years a farmer in Albert Lea township, was born in Lincolnshire, England, November 24, 1837, son of Thomas and Ann Godley, farmers of that shire. John G. spent his early youth in England, attended school there, and was a bookkeeper in his native place for some two and a half years. In 1854 he came to America, lived at Jamaica, Long Island, a year, and then stayed a short time in Chemung county, New York. In 1855 he located in Richland City, Wis., and there remained two years. He dates his residence in Freeborn county from 1857, when he came to Albert Lea township and laid claim to land in section 18. Later he returned to Wisconsin. In 1860 he again came to his claim, and was engaged in farming in 1862 when the war broke out. He then enlisted in Co. C, 5th Minn. Vol. Inf., and became chief clerk in the quartermaster's department. At the close of the war Mr. Godley returned to Albert Lea, and resumed farming, acquiring in time 240 acres of splendid land south of the city. Here he lived and prospered until 1895. After the passing of these years, Mr. Godley and his wife moved to the city of Albert Lea where they purchased the beautiful home on Fountain Lake known as "Linden Terrace." In this charming home they are spending their retiring years. Mr. Godley is a Democrat, and a member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R. He and his good wife are faithful attendants of the Presbyterian church. The subject of this sketch was married April 15, 1868, to Margaret Slater, who was born in Lancastershire, England, March 19, 1843, came to America 1854. They were married at the brides home in Bancroft township, this county, and this union has been blessed with one daughter, Anna M. She is the wife of Rev. J. W. Countermine. They live at Des Moines, Iowa, and have one child, Ruth Godley Countermine.

**A. U. Mayland**, probate judge of Albert Lea, was born on the 28th of November, 1864, in Goodhue county, Minnesota, the son of L. A. and Uni (Thorsness) Mayland, both natives of Norway. They came to Wisconsin, mother in 1848, father in 1846, where





JOHN G. GODLEY





they were married and farmed until 1864, then came to Goodhue county, Minnesota, and in the spring of 1864 moved to Wanamingo township, where they lived until they died. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Goodhue County. He took the preparatory course at Carleton college, Northfield, Minn., and the classical and law courses at the State University. After completing his education, he went to Oklahoma, Kay county, in 1893. He located at Ponca City, where he remained for one and one-half years, at the end of which time he returned to Goodhue county. He stayed at home for a short time at the time of his father's death. Mr. Mayland then went to Minneapolis, where he practiced law for a short time, and in 1896 established a law practice in Albert Lea, which practice he still continues. In 1909 he was made Probate Judge, and he served as county attorney from 1901 until 1905. Mr. Mayland is a Republican in his political life, and a member of the I. O. O. F., and M. W. A. lodges. In the year 1901, he was married to Ella J. Sorenson, daughter of S. P. and Alice (Gundersen) Sorenson. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Sorenson was postmaster of Albert Lea. He is now in business in the city of Duluth. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Mayland has been made happy by two children—Vivian L. and Sevena A. He is a loyal member of the Lutheran Church, being one of the trustees, and member of the church council. Mr. Mayland owns considerable city property, and is one of Albert Lea's most substantial and progressive citizens. He lives at 425 East Third street.

**George W. Peterson**, one of Albert Lea's successful business men, began life in Freeborn county, September 25, 1875. His parents, C. F. and Mary (Jorgenson) Peterson, came to America from Denmark in 1869, and obtained land in Clark's Grove, where they made their home and improved their farm until recently. They are now living in New Denmark and enjoying the fruits of their more active years. Seven children came to their home. George, the subject of this sketch, received his early education in the public schools of Freeborn county, and afterward followed farming for a period of five years. He then came to Albert Lea, where he clerked in a clothing store for three years. Mr. Peterson, after this, formed a co-partnership with his brother, P. August, known as Peterson Brothers' Hardware Company. In this line they continued for ten years, then sold the regular hardware interests, but George retained the implement and International Harvester business. Mr. Peterson is now doing a flourishing business. In 1897, George W. Peterson married Esther C. Peterson, daughter of Charles Peterson. Two daughters, Valda and Helen, and one son, George Wallace, have been welcomed to their home. Mr. Peterson and his brother



also own the building in which is located the Albert Lea Auto Company and Garage. His home is on the corner of Washington and Water streets. In the business life of Albert Lea Mr. Peterson is an active and public spirited factor, an independent voter and an all round successful man.

**O. C. Styve**, an estimable and well known citizen and farmer, was born in this county January 21, 1875, son of Ole and Ingeborg Bottolfson Styve. He attended the public schools and in them acquired his primary education, after which he was a student in the Academy in Albert Lea and later in the University of Minnesota. He then went to Decorah, Iowa, and completed a course in Luther College, in 1900. Returning home he engaged in farming and assisted his father in making many improvements on their farm. Here at the present time he follows farming, having 148 acres of land under cultivation. He also raises stock and is interested in dairying. Louise Jordahl, daughter of Ole Jordahl, one of the earliest settlers, now deceased, became the wife of Mr. Styve, June 12, 1907, and they are the parents of one child, Alton. Mr. Styve has many business interests which have prevented his mingling actively in politics though he votes the Republican ticket. He is a stockholder in Albert Lea Co-Operative Creamery, and he owns a popular summer resort, known as Coney Island. His farm, situated on the northern side of Fountain lake, is one of the well cared for and improved farms in that locality. He attends the Lutheran Church, but belongs to no lodges.

**Ole O. Styve**, now deceased, was born in Norway in 1842. He came to America in 1850, located in Dane county, Wisconsin for four years, then to Decorah, Iowa, for three years, and, in 1857, located in Bancroft township, where he acquired land and worked at farming. December 20, 1868, he married Ingeborg Bottolfson, daughter of G. and Annie P. (Wange) Bottolfson. Mr. and Mrs. Bottolfson were old settlers of the township and came to this locality in 1855, when there were but two families living here, and these two had arrived but eight days before the Bottolfson family. These were the real pioneer days in the state, and many were the hardships which those people endured. In a dugout were the first few years of their life in this locality spent, and later the log cabin, which Mr. Bottolfson erected, was considered a fine dwelling, and the best residence in this part of the country. Very different were the surroundings of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Styve, for the country was more thickly settled at the time of their marriage, and they were better prepared to meet and overcome the difficulties incident to pioneer life at that time, profiting by the experiences of their parents. Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Styve were parents of eleven children: Lucy A.,



Gertrude L., Oscar C., Gilbert B., Peter B., Alice M., Joseph E., and Isabella are living and three are deceased. Mr. Styve fought through the war, entering the combat in Company K, 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Army of the Potomac. When the war was ended he returned to his home in Bancroft and resumed farming. For years he served in all the offices of this township and the remainder of his life was spent in forwarding the interests of others, giving assistance where needed and advancing the general welfare of his community. He was summoned by death January 13, 1905. His widow now makes her home with her son Oscar.

**H. C. Hansen**, who conducts the Star Marble Works, was born on August 28, 1871, at Wells, Faribault county, and came to Albert Lea, at the age of two years, with his parents, Lars and Trena Hansen, natives of Denmark. They came to the United States in the early days and settled in Martin county. They came to Albert Lea in 1874, when Mr. Hansen, Sr., engaged in the marble and granite business until 1901; at that time he retired from active life and has since lived in retirement at Oakwood Park. His son, H. C., the subject of this sketch, succeeded his father in the marble works at the old place of business on the corner of Pearl and Broadway. In the year 1901, H. C. Hansen was married to Rena Hansen, daughter of Jens and Mary Anna Hansen, the former a farmer in this county. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hansen are the parents of two children—Mildred and Arthur. Mr. Hansen is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Danish Lutheran Church and the Modern Woodmen of America Lodge. The subject lives at 409 Euclid street. Mr. Hansen is a member of Albert Lea Protective Game Association.

**Soren K. Swenson**, the progressive president of the Albert Lea Gas Light Company, was born in New Sweden, Minn., on May 25, 1879, the son of Swen and Kristi (Knudson) Swenson, both natives of Norway. They came to America in 1859, locating in New Sweden, where the father farmed until the time of his death in 1905. The mother still lives on the old farm in New Sweden. Soren attended district schools in New Sweden and also followed his studies at Luther. Academy, Albert Lea, for three years. Upon leaving school he was employed by Ramson Bros. Wholesale Grocers, now succeeded by the Western Grocer Company. In 1902, he went into partnership with P. C. Johnson and established the P. C. Johnson Clothing Company, remaining in this business for one and one-half years. At the end of this time Mr. Swenson went in with the American Gas Machine Company, and in the second year in their employ was named secretary of the company, which position he filled for some time. Leaving this position, he organized the Albert Lea



Gas Light Company, which company manufactures gasoline lighting apparatus. Mr. Swenson was united in marriage on April 16, 1902, to Emeline Ellen Rogers, born at Albert Lea, February 23, 1879, daughter of Nicholas and Katherine (Flynn) Rogers, natives of Ireland. Their union has been blessed with two children, Roger J. and Robert B. Mr. Swenson is politically a Republican, and affiliates with the Catholic Church. He is a loyal member of the Royal Arcanum, U. C. T., Elks, Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He owns his comfortable home at 616 West Fountain street, and is always willing to promote Albert Lea's best interests. Mr. Swenson was elected Grand Regent of the Royal Arcanum, April, 1911, for one year. He is a member of the Business Men's League of Albert Lea.

**P. W. Nobel**, one of the prominent citizens of Albert Lea township was born in Denmark on October 31, 1844. His parents were Carl E. and Sophia Sevensen, who passed their lives in their native land. Mr. Nobel was educated in Denmark, and when he had reached manhood's estate he decided to leave the home of his boyhood and seek his fortune in a new country. Upon arriving in the United States, he spent six months in New York, after which he went to Racine, Wis., and worked in a sawmill, and at different occupations whereby he could earn his living. He came to Minnesota in 1869, and settled in Albert Lea, where he acquired some land and began to farm. In 1888, he had accumulated enough money to purchase a farm of his own, which he did, and he has made many improvements on his property and carries on general and dairy farming. He married Carrie Petersen, a daughter of Peter and Christina (Jensen) Petersen, on February 12, 1878; and to them have been born three children: Carl Edward, deceased; Walter, works the home farm, and Emelia is at home. Mr. Nobel has occupied many responsible offices in his township, he is now clerk of the town board and has held this office for the last nineteen years, he has also been town assessor. He is secretary of the Albert Lea Co-Operative Creamery and a stockholder in this institution. He affiliates with the Republican party, and is a member of the Danish Lutheran Church. He owes his prosperity to his years of industry and good management, and he is respected by those with whom he has associated, either in social or business affairs. Has been clerk of his school district for thirty-five years.

**Bernt Johnson**, who is of Danish birth and parentage, was born May 2, 1860, son of Sever and Mary Johnson. The family came to America in 1883, landing in Philadelphia, and settled in Waseka county, Minnesota, where the subject of this sketch worked out by the month for eight years. He then came to Riceland, where for six years he rented land and farmed. At



the end of this time he bought 160 acres in sections 7 and 8, Moscow, where he still resides. He does general farming and keeps a good herd of dairy cattle. In May, 1886, he married Mary Sorson, who died January 4, 1906. To them were born nine children, of which three are dead. Those living are: Nora, Hattie, Dagmer, Arthur, Hartve, Myrtle. Mr. Johnson and his present wife, Mary, were married in 1909. In politics Mr. Johnson is a Republican, but has never aspired to public office. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and an active worker.

**N. O. Nelson** was born in Freeman township November 25, 1863, and is the son of John and Julia Nelson, who came to this country from Norway in 1853. In 1856 they came to Freeborn county and settled in Freeman township where they did general farming on land which they homesteaded, they remained here until 1893, and then moved to Northwood, Iowa, for about two years after which they went to Glenville and worked a farm of forty acres for two years; here they were not contented and decided to try their fortune in Tennessee, but after staying there for a few years they returned to Northwood, and they have since made their home there. Their son, N. O., the subject of this sketch attended the common schools of Freeman township, and after leaving school he farmed for two years then went to North Dakota, remaining there about a year and a half after which he returned to Freeman township and worked for a few months, and then he went back to Northwood, and there he purchased a harness shop which proved an unsatisfactory investment; this he sold in two years. He returned to his father's farm and rented it, remaining on it for seven years, after which he did general farming in Worth county, Iowa, for five years, and then he purchased his father's farm in Freeman township, and he does general farming here and keeps a fine grade of Holstein cattle. In 1890, Mr. Nelson married Christina Christiansen, of worth county. To them have been born five children: Caspar J., Guyda M., Ella N., Gaylord C., and Inez N. In politics Mr. Nelson supports the principles of the Republican party. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and has held many responsible offices in his township, was census enumerator in 1910, is treasurer of the school district; he was also president of the Freeman Dairy Association for two years.

**O. A. Hammer** is one of the leading citizens of Freeborn county, and will ever live in the history of this part of the state by reason of his fourteen years' efficient service as member of the board of county commissioners, serving as chairman four years. An able presiding officer, and possessed of hard headed common sense, his administrative duties have contributed to the same management of county affairs. Of Viking ancestry, he was



born in Norway, December 11, 1842, son of Erick and Ingebar (Gulgrandson) Hammer, who were unostentatious and respected residents of Norway before coming to America. O. A. Hammer came to America as a youth, received a good common school education. During a part of his early manhood he was a railway mail agent on the Minneapolis & St. Louis, and on the Burlington & Cedar Rapids, the latter of which is now the Chicago & Rock Island. Since 1885 he has been a farmer in Albert Lea township, where he has achieved great success at general farming. Mr. Hammer is a studious reader, and is well informed on all the current matters of the day, being also an historical investigator who has taken considerable interest in the facts of the early Scandinavian settlements in Minnesota. His interest in modern education is shown by his service for twenty-five years as clerk of school district 107. The subject of this sketch was married in 1882 to Caroline Dahl, a daughter of Ole Dahl, also natives of Norway.

**Erick Hammer**, for many years a resident of Albert Lea township. was born in Norway, and there married Ingebar Gulbrandson. About 1865 they came to Freeborn county, and settled two miles from the city of Albert Lea. There they became substantial residents, and farmed the remainder of their lives. Erick died in 1890. His wife died in 1895.

**Ole A. Korstad**, whose parents, Andrew and Ingre Korstad, came from Norway to America in 1862, was born in Houston county, Minnesota, November 8, 1862. When he was three years old the family moved to Freeman township, Minnesota, and there acquired land which they developed and improved, making for themselves a comfortable home and carrying on general farming. Ole K., subject of this biography attended the country school near his home and worked with his father on the farm, where work is so necessary and idleness hardly known. When his father died in 1908, he came into full possession of the home and farm, and has followed the work which his father conducted successfully for so many years. Mr. Korstad keeps a fine herd of short-horn and Aberdeen Angus cattle, he also raises many hogs, which yield him a profitable income. In politics he votes with the Republican party, and he worships at the Lutheran Church. He is interested in the Freeman Dairy Association, and owns stock in this company.

**E. K. Flaskerud**, who for thirty years has been assessor in Freeman township. is a native of Norway, and was born July 20, 1841, son of Knute and Annie Flaskerud, the former of whom was a farmer and died in Norway, the latter also lived in Norway till death. E. K. received a common school education in Norway and later learned the shoe trade, which he followed until he







MR. AND MRS. WIFFING WADSWORTH



emigrated to America, in 1869. He first located in Calmer, Iowa, where he worked at his trade for a time, then he came to Freeborn county to visit a brother, who lived near Twin Lakes, and was so well pleased with the country that he purchased forty acres and farmed. To his forty acres he added, as opportunity offered, until he now has 200 acres, and here until 1908, he followed general farming and stock raising. He kept a good grade of short-horn cattle and mixed breeds of hogs. Since 1908 he has rented his land and has given his time to other lines of business. He purchased a store which he conducted two years while he was postmaster at Knatvold, but later sold out to his son-in-law, H. G. Nagel. In 1869 he married Caroline Stronstod, who is a native of Norway, and this union has been blessed with six children, two of whom, Edward and Carrie are deceased, the former having died in 1901, and the latter in 1908. Christian is at home; Oliva is now Mrs. H. G. Nagel; Annie lives in Freeman; Theodore is conducting a general store and elevator at Armstrong, Freeborn county. Mr. Flaskerud is an active member of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican, and has been a member of the town board two years, school clerk since 1872, and is also treasurer of the Freeman Dairy Association, in which he is a stock holder. It is in his work as assessor, since 1881, that he has shown the rare good judgment and care taking business ability for which he is well known and highly esteemed.

**G. W. Wadsworth**, is a native of this county, having been born in Freeman township November 28, 1869, son of W. Wadsworth, a veteran of the Civil War. His boyhood was passed in acquiring knowledge in the country schools and on the farm. In 1897 he assumed the entire charge of a farm for himself, which is located in sections 9, 10 and 16, and comprises 160 acres. He is now actively engaged in general farming and dairying, keeping a valuable dairy herd of Shorthorn cows. He also raises pure bred Poland China hogs and Percheon horses, and cultivates about 70 acres of his land. He selected as his life's companion, Clara Fisher, a daughter of Jacob Fisher, formerly of Iowa, but now a resident of Mower county, this state, and they were married in 1897; to them one son, Harry J., has been born. Mr. Wadsworth is a member of the Republican party, and has been elected to serve as school clerk for the past six years. He is a stockholder in the Freeman Co-Operative Creamery, and he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and also to the Yeomen. He is an enterprising and industrious citizen, whose progressive ideas have made him successful in his chosen work of farming.

**W. Wadsworth**, one of the honored pioneers of Freeman township, was born in England, September 11, 1830. He is the son



of Richard and Mary Pye Wadsworth. The subject of this sketch received his schooling in England, and followed farming as soon as he left school. In 1854 he migrated to America, first settling in Vermont. But the spirit of adventure was upon him and with it the desire for larger opportunities than the East afforded, and he sought the new and untried West. In 1856 he came to Minnesota and located a homestead in Albert Lea township, Freeborn county, which he sold some months later and purchased land in Freeman township, the same year—1856. Erecting a log cabin on the land, he went to work with the courage of the early pioneer and cleared and cultivated the farm until the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1861. He then enlisted in Company C, Fifth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. After serving two and a half years he received his honorable discharge and returned to his farm. In the years that followed, by his steady industry and energy, he gradually accumulated more of the fertile soil of Freeborn township until he found himself the owner of 520 acres. Out of this he gave each of his two sons a farm of 160 acres. He still has 200 acres which he rents and from which he receives an income to provide for the wants of his retired life. Mr. Wadsworth was married on March 7, 1857, to Sarah, the daughter of John Freeman, who located in Freeman township in 1856, and for whom the township was named. Mrs. Wadsworth died April 27, 1898. Six children blessed the Wadsworth home. They are: Joseph, a farmer, living in Freeman township; George, a farmer, living in the same township; Elizabeth Ward, residing in California; Mary Paxton lives in Mason City, Iowa; Agnes, who keeps house for her father, and Ada (Smith) died August 20, 1901. Mr. Wadsworth is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is also a member of the Masonic Lodge of Albert Lea, and of the G. A. R. He has served with ability on the town board a number of years and also on the school board.

**J. L. Wadsworth**, one of the prosperous farmers of Freeborn county, who is fortunate enough to own 160 acres of its fertile soil, was born August 29th, 1862. He is a native of the county and is the son of W. Wadsworth. He was educated in the district schools of Freeman township. Arriving at manhood's estate he worked with his father on the farm until 1895. In that year he bought a quarter section of his own in section 15 of Freeman township and since that time has carried on general farming. He has paid special attention to dairying and the raising of fine hogs and cattle. He takes great pride in his thoroughbred Shorthorns and Poland China hogs. He has sixty acres under the plow, and the balance of the farm is devoted to



pasture. Mr. Wadsworth was married in 1890 to Katherine Herzog. Three children have blessed the home, one of which died in infancy. The two living children are Hazel and Frank. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Yeoman. He has served on the school board, and at the present time is treasurer of the township.

**W. C. Gruetzmacher**, who owns the hardware store at Geneva, was born in Mayville, Wis., in 1869. His parents, Hermann L. and Augusta (Wolff) Gruetzmacher, were Germans, who came to America in the early days, and located in Wisconsin. They later moved to Minnesota and settled near Owatonna, where they bought land and farmed, and here the father is living at the present, the wife and mother died October 21, 1909. W. C., their son, attended the public schools, and later went to Minneapolis where he entered the Minneapolis Conservatory of Music, and here he studied for seven years and graduated. During this time he learned the tinnern's trade at St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, which occupation he worked for seven years. In 1897 he came to Geneva and erected the building in which he carries on business at present. He carries a large stock of hardware and farming implements. Mr. Gruetzmacher, in 1897, married Emma R. Iwig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Iwig, and they are the parents of two children: Luella and Verna, both at home. Mr. Gruetzmacher is very much interested in music and has been leader of several bands for years. He is an independent political voter, though he has been a Republican. His prosperity is due to his own hard work and determination to succeed; he often relates the story of his start in business when the total amount of his capital was fifty cents.

**N. P. Larsen** has been a resident of this county for nearly thirty-six years. He was born in Denmark, March 30, 1855, son of Lars and Dorthea (Green) Christopherson. He emigrated from his native land to America in 1874, and when first arriving here he worked at whatever would yield him the greatest income. One year after his coming his parents crossed the ocean to this country, and came to Albert Lea township where, combining hard work with frugality they spent the greater part of their lives tilling the soil, which yielded abundantly, thus rewarding their untiring efforts. In 1899 the wife and mother passed away and the father's death occurred six years later. The subject of this biography married Sophia Olsen in 1881, and they became the parents of five children: Hans, Laura, Dora, Karl and Marie. As the years passed this wife died, and later in life Mr. Larsen and Mary Larsen were united in matrimony, four children are the result of this union: Adler, Evangeline, Robert and Philip. Of the 130 acres owned by Mr. Larsen, nearly 100

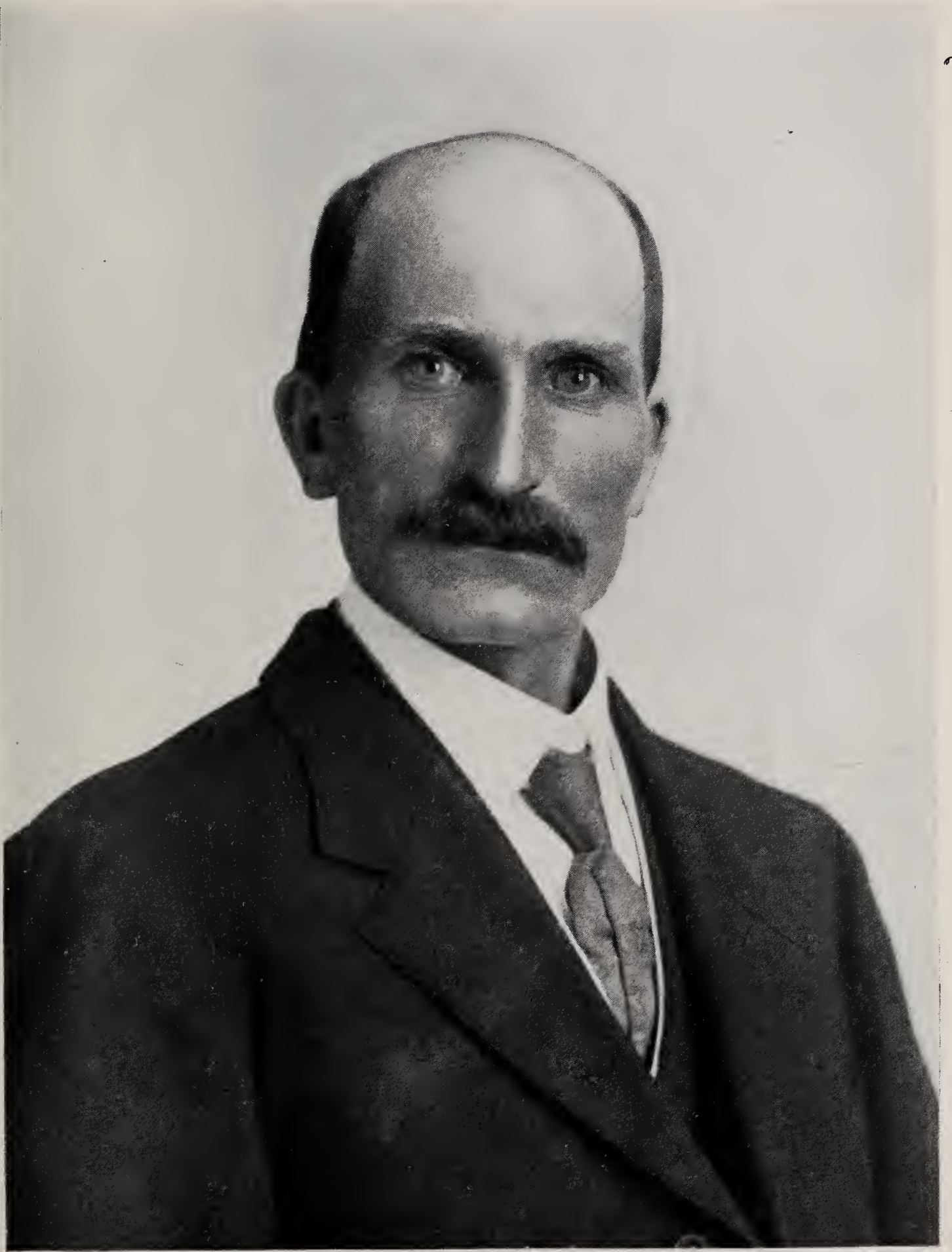


are under cultivation, while twenty acres comprise a grove which borders on Pickerel lake. The remainder of his farm supports his fine dairy herd, and the milk from this herd is daily shipped to meet the increasing demands of the city consumers. Mr. Larson is justly proud of his well improved and fertile farm, knowing that its present excellent condition is due to years of unceasing toil. Though he has never entered into politics to any degree he favors the principles of the Republicans. He regularly attends the Lutheran Church of which he is an esteemed member.

**Oscar Rood** is a prosperous farmer residing in Albert Lea township. His parents, John C. and Mary Rood, came to this country from Norway, and settled first in Wisconsin, where the subject of this sketch was born, October 13, 1860. He is one of a family of eight children, six of whom are yet living. When he was fifteen years' old the family came to Albert Lea township and here engaged in farming, and it was here that the father and mother passed away. Mr. Rood received his education in the common schools, and after leaving his studies began farming, an occupation at which he has been most successful. He owns 176½ acres of land which borders on the lake front, and has about ninety acres under cultivation. His well improved and valuable farm has been made so by the hard work and careful management of himself and father. In political views Mr. Rood favors the Republican party, but his many duties on his farm have kept him from seeking any public office.

**N. H. Hoyne** is one of the leading and substantial residents of Freeman township. He has occupied many responsible offices in his community, having been elected as chairman of the town board for the past eight years, and clerk for four years, and at present he is school treasurer in district 66. He was born in Freeborn county, Minnesota, October 28, 1869, son of Hover Ingebretson and Dorthea (Lien) Hoyne, natives of Norway, who came to America in the early days, where they met and were married. They went to Yankton, North Dakota, and homesteaded a claim but left at the time of the Indian War, in 1863, and moved to Hayward. Here they acquired some land, but a year later went to Freeman and pre-empted a claim where they reared their family and made their home, and the father passed away here, in 1886; the mother is living with her son, N. H., on the old homestead, at the present time. Mr. Hoyne has a valuable farm of 310 acres including the eighty acres in the old homestead still owned by his mother, of which 150 acres are plowed and the remainder is in pasture, meadow and timber. Forty acres of land are situated in Nunda township, and these are mostly timber. He raises Shorthorn cattle and a cross breed of Poland China and





N. H. HOYNE









MR. AND MRS. OLE JOHNSON



Duroc-Jersey hogs, and he is also interested in dairy farming, selling cream to Albert Lea creamery. In 1907, Clara M. Overland became his wife, and to this marriage two children have been born: Herbert A. and Grant G. Mr. Hoyne attends the Lutheran Church and is a substantial contributor to its financial support. His political ideas coincide with those advanced by the Republican party.

**Ole Johnson**, who is a veteran of the Civil War, is a native of Norway, and was born October 28, 1842, son of John and Anna Johnson, who came to America with son Ole in 1861, and located in Iowa. From here they moved to Freeman township, this county, in 1871, and here they lived with subject of this sketch until their death, the father dying in 1886 and the mother several years before. Ole Johnson received his education in Norway. When he came to Iowa with his parents in 1861 the recruits were being sent to the south for the defense of the Union. He enlisted in Company A, Eighteenth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and for the whole of the war he suffered the privations and hardships incident to the life of those who saw the heat of the conflict and took a part in the strife. Mr. Johnson is very modest in regard to his experiences in the war, but it is certain that he performed his duties honorably, as he was held in high regard by his comrades. On returning from the war he at once took up the pursuits of peace, in the form of agriculture on his farm in Iowa, and later in Freeman township, where he settled in 1871. To his original 160 acres he added, and now has over 400 acres. He has engaged in diversified farming, and has made a special effort to raise a good grade of Shorthorn stock and keep an up-to-date dairy farm. On his well equipped farm he has made all the improvements. In 1866 Mr. Johnson married Bertha Erickson, who died in 1873. To this union was born one child, Carl, of St. Louis county, Minnesota. In 1875 Mrs. Anna Groven (she had one daughter by her first marriage—Avena, now Mrs. T. Lundwal, of Roseau county) became his second wife, and to them were born six children: Reinert, at home; Hanna, now of Albert Lea; Andrew, of Washington, and Alexander, Harold and Agnes are at home. The subject of this biography is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican and has held offices of trust at various times, among which were several terms as member of the school board.

**A. O. Storvik**, the well known farmer of Freeman, is a native of Norway, and was born February 16, 1847, the son of Ole and Bertha Storvik. His father farmed in Norway till his death, and his mother is still living in the old country, now ninety-five years of age. The subject of this biography attended school in Norway until fourteen years of age, and then joined a party of



his countrymen and came to the United States, settling first in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he worked out and later farmed thirteen years. He wished to go farther west, and in 1872 went to Nebraska where he took a claim which he farmed eight years. Not liking this state as well as he had hoped to, he sold out and returned to Iowa, and located in Buena Vista county, where he rented land and each fall ran a threshing machine, for four years. At the end of this time he came to Freeborn county and bought 200 acres in Freeman township, where he lives today. Knowing that he was here to make his permanent home, he built substantial buildings and made all the many improvements which now make this one of the excellent farms of the county. He follows general and dairy farming and keeps a herd of high grade Shorthorn cattle, but is changing to the Holstein breed. He annually raises a large number of full blood Durock Jersey hogs, and in horses he keeps a good number of mixed breed for farm and driving purposes. In 1871 he married Christina T. Tangen, a native of Illinois, and this union has been blessed with ten children, eight of whom are still living: Ole, of Albert Lea, is state inspector of dairy foods; Tosten, a butter maker by trade, is farming in Freeman; Bertha, widow of Otto Knutson, lives at home; Edward, formerly a teacher, is now mail clerk in Albert Lea; Andrana, Alert and Ella are at home; Amanda is a graduate of Luther Academy and of the Sioux Falls Lutheran Normal. Mr. Storvik is an independent voter, and has served on the town board some years, and is at present director of the school board in his home district. He is also president of Freeman creamery, a stock holder in the Freeman Telephone Company, was two years one of the trustees of Luther Academy, of Albert Lea, and is representative of the Manchester Insurance Company, as well as being interested in other organizations and business ventures. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and director of the choir of the Round Prairie Church, also secretary of this congregation, and of the United Congregation of London, Lyle and Glenville Lutheran Churches.

**John J. Kalstad** is a progressive farmer of Freeman township, son of Johanas and Karen Kalstad, who came to the United States from Norway in 1861, and settled in Freeman, where they purchased eighty acres of land in section 23 and made their home. It was here that the subject of this sketch was born May 19, 1864, and here the parents died, the mother in 1889, and the father sixteen years later. John J., their son, spent his boyhood attending the common schools and assisting his father on the farm, and 1886 he assumed entire charge of the place and has since added to it 480 acres, he here carries on general as well





JOHN J. KALSTAD AND FAMILY





as dairy farm work. Among the many improvements which Mr. Kalstad has made on his property is a fine new house, this is modern in every respect and a home of which he is justly proud. In 1886 he married Amelia Anderson, daughter of Jens Anderson, of Freeman, and eight children have been born to them: Julius, who lives at Albert Lea; Casper, now in Waterloo, Iowa; Adelia, married Albert Haugen, of Waterloo, Iowa; Cornelia, Milford, Beatrice, Carl and Augustus are all at home. The tenets of the Republican party are endorsed by Mr. Kalstad, and he is a staunch supporter of the Lutheran Church; he has held various offices in his township, served on school and town board, and is a stockholder in the Glenville Citizens State Bank, and in the Glenville Creamery. He owned property in Albert Lea on Lake boulevard, where he resided for three years, after which he sold and returned to the home of his boyhood days, on the farm.

**Torger Haraldson** has been a resident of Freeman township for many years, devoting his energies to developing his land and making many improvements thereon. He was born in Norway, October 13, 1856, but came to this country with his parents when a small boy, in 1861. He assisted his father with the farm work, and attended school in Freeman, and after completing his education he followed general farming, receiving some land from his father to which he has added as his success permitted, until at the present time he owns 280 acres. About 130 acres of his farm he has under cultivation yielding abundant crops each year. He is also most successful with Shorthorn cattle, and keeps a good herd of them, and he raises many Durock-Jersey hogs to supply the needs of his family and for occasional market. Petra Stovern, daughter of A. O. Stovern, of this county became his wife in 1890, and their home has been brightened by the arrival of five children: Armond, Harry, Clarence, Parnell and Olga. Mr. Haraldson has ever been actively interested in the affairs of his township, serving on both town and school board for many years. He is a respected member of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he endorses the sentiments of the Republican party. He has many other business interests, being a stockholder in the Freeman Dairy Association and a telephone company.

**A. C. Aanrud**, a progressive farmer, whose home is in Freeman township, came to America with his parents when he was a boy ten years of age. He was born in Norway, February 14, 1856, son of Christian and Ingeborg Aanrud, who settled in Freeman in 1866, and bought a farm of 120 acres in section 29, where they followed farming until the time of their retirement from active employment thirty years later. Both are dead. In attending



school and helping his father on the farm, were the boyhood days of the subject of this sketch spent, and when he attained his majority he left the old home and went to California, where he remained for two years. He then returned to Freeman and bought forty acres of land, to which he has added as circumstances have permitted, and at the present time he has 220 acres, where he is conducting general and dairy farming most successfully. The excellent condition of his farm today, is the result of Mr. Aanrud's own hard work, he has improved all the buildings and kept them in repair. He has about seventy-five acres of land under cultivation, and raises good crops each year, the reward for weeks and months of unceasing toil. Olava Gordhammer, of Iowa, married Mr. Aanrud on December 26, 1887, and they are the parents of eight children: Ida Hanson, living in Cottonwood county; Carl, Louisa, Sophia, Alma, Julia, Louis and Clarence, at home. Mr. Aanrud has taken an active part in the affairs of his township; serving as clerk of the school board, and town clerk for a period of two years. He is secretary of the Farmers' Telephone Company, and one of its stock holders, and owns stock in the lumber yards at Emmons. He is director, also member of the Round Prairie Farmers' Threshing Company, and these many interests have occupied so much of his time that he does not mingle in politics to any extent though he votes with the Republican party. He attends the Lutheran Church of which he is a prominent member.

**W. G. Freeman**, one of the prominent citizens of Freeman township, came to the locality in which he now lives, with his parents, Mark and Mary (Sevey) Freeman, being grandson of John Freeman, the pioneer. These estimable people were among the earliest settlers of that part of the county, and from them the township of Freeman derived its name. The hardships confronting them so discouraged them that after spending two years in this wild place they returned to their old home in Illinois. Here they could not content themselves, despite the fact that they were surrounded by friends and the comforts of civilization so they again came west, and settled near their former home, and it was here that they engaged in farming until the present time, having 240 acres of land under cultivation. When a boy the son, W. G., attended the schools near home, and helped his father in caring for and improving his property. By the time he had finished school he was well versed in the principles of general farming and was employed by his father. At the present time he owns eighty acres to which he has given careful attention resulting in a well improved and up-to-date farm. He was married in 1889 to Minnie Perkins, of Worth county, Iowa. Five children have blessed this union: Roy, Milon, Elsie, Perry and







MR. AND MRS. ANDREW LARSON



Luella. Mr. Freeman is a Republican in politics, and he is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Albert Lea. He is serving as treasurer of the school board and has been road overseer for three years. He is one of the stockholders in the Freeman Creamery Association; also stockholder in the Freeman Threshing Machine Company, and in every respect an energetic, public spirited man.

**Andrew Larson**, an extensive land owner and capable farmer residing in Freeman township, started out in life for himself in 1871. Leaving his old home in Sweden and coming to the United States, he purchased 160 acres of land in Freeman township, which he has developed, improved and added to, until at the present date he owns 280 acres in all. Here Mr. Larson has carried on general also dairy farming most successfully, and prefers the Shorthorn cattle for general dairy purposes. He raises many hogs for market, which has been a profitable occupation. His success in this country encouraged his parents, Lars and Ingra (Nelson) Olson, to follow his example, and they left Sweden and arrived in America in the late seventies. They located near their son in Freeman, and bought land there and farmed until their advanced years prevented such activities. The father died about ten years after coming to this country, and the mother some time later. Mr. Larson was married to Margreta Jorgenson, of Swedish origin, in 1878, and five children have been born to them: Andrew G., of Hayward, Minn.; Oscar, Albin, Augusta, Esther, student at the Albert Lea Business College, and Olof, deceased. As one of the organizers of the Glenville Creamery, he has the respect of his fellowmen, which is also indicated by his long service as treasurer and clerk on the school board, being one of its directors at the present time. He owns a house and lot on Fifth street, in Albert Lea, which he rents; also has an acre of land just outside the city limits of Albert Lea—it being lot No. 3, in what is known as the Hewit block. He attends the Lutheran Church, and in politics votes the Republican ticket. Mrs. Larson was born February 3, 1851, in Sweden, daughter of Jorgen Nelson and Hannah Jenson, natives of Norway, where they lived and died. Mrs. Larson came to America in 1872, locating at Jamestown, N. Y. She came to Minnesota February 7, 1878.

**James B. Hayes**, the capable postmaster of Oakland, is the son of James B. and Jessie (Dearmin) Hayes, and was born in Moscow township, August 30, 1888. He was educated in the common schools of the county and when sixteen years of age he took charge of his father's farm, his father having died in 1904. He was here actively engaged for six years. In 1910 he moved to the village of Oakland and became postmaster, which



position he has filled to the present time. He was also manager of the Oakland store from October 4, 1910, until March 14, 1911. From that time until the present he has been agent for the C. M. & St. P. railway, at Oakland. On August 29, 1909, he married Alma M. Carlson, and to them has been born one child, Maurice. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics he is Republican.

**Peter Hemmingsen**, successful business man of Alden, is of Danish birth and parentage, and was born September 15, 1864, son of Laurits and Andrene, who both lived their lives in their native land. Their son Peter attended the elementary schools of Denmark, later worked on the farm and did duty in the national navy. Having served his time in the navy he started to learn the bakery trade and business, but had the misfortune to have a long illness. After his recovery he emigrated and came to the United States in April, 1887. He settled in Alden and for one year worked on a farm, and followed this with two years of railroad work. He was later employed more than two years by a firm which sold implements and machinery. He was ambitious to get into business for himself, and went to Minneapolis where he learned the barber trade, and on his return opened a barber business, which he conducted three years. This business he later disposed of, and engaged in other lines, and finally opened a business in drugs and furniture which he successfully conducted seven years. After the seven years of success in drugs an opportunity came to dispose of the drug business to advantage, and he sold this department, and now conducts his furniture business to which he has added undertaking. In 1894 he married Marie Hanson, also a native of Denmark, and to them have been born six children: Irene, Irwin, Effie, Vivian, Sylvia and Peter. On December 2, 1906, Mr. Hemmingsen's wife died. Mr. Hemmingsen is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is Republican. He belongs to the Danish Brotherhood.

**T. C. Nelson**, a progressive farmer of Albert Lea township, is one of the well known men in that locality. He owns 120 acres of land about three miles of the city of Albert Lea, and here carries on general farming together with dairying and raising hogs. He was born February 5, 1882, in Albert Lea, son of Danish parents, who came to America in the early days and established their home in this country. His early boyhood was spent in school and at work on the farm, and at the age of fourteen years he began earning his own living. For several years he was employed by different farmers in the township, and saved his hard earned money until he could begin making payments on a farm of his own. He first acquired the old home-



stead, which consisted of eighty acres, and has since added to this forty acres more. In 1903 Caroline Thompson, daughter of Andrew and Olena Thompson, became his wife, and this union has been blessed by the birth of two children; Mabel and Russell. Mr. Nelson favors the political theories advanced by the Republican party, but has devoted his time to the upkeep of his home and farm and not sought public office. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson both are members of the Synod Norwegian Lutheran Church, of Albert Lea, and Mr. Nelson is a member of the Danish Brotherhood Lodge, No. 75. Mrs. Nelson belongs to the Ladies Aid Society of the church.

**S. J. Nelson** is a native of Denmark, who emigrated from the land of his birth to this country in the pioneer days. He and his worthy wife settled in Albert Lea township, and here founded their home and reared their children of whom there were nine: Ole, Hanna, Minnie, Nels, Mary, James, T. C., Tillie and Nancy, all of whom are living. With the exception of four years Mr. Nelson has followed farming since coming to America, the four years being spent in working for a railroad company. He votes the Republican ticket.

**Peter P. Bohl**, one of the substantial farmers of Albert Lea township, was born in Denmark in 1858. He is the son of Hans P. and Botilla Bohl, both of whom died in that country. In 1881 the subject of this sketch came to America and for three years engaged in farming in Dekalb county, Illinois. Then he bought land in Franklin county, Iowa, and cultivated and improved it for five years. He then removed to Minnesota, farming in Faribault county, and afterwards coming to Freeborn county where he rented land for some years in Albert Lea township. He then bought his present farm home of 135 acres. One hundred acres of this is under cultivation, and the balance is timber and pasturage. He carries on general farming, but is much interested in his dairy. He has a herd of twenty-five Jersey cattle, and is a stockholder in the Albert Lea Creamery Association. In 1886 Mr. Bohl was married to Christina Sippel. There are eight children. They are: Thora, Meta, Elvina, George, Harold, Anna, Axel and Joseph. Politically, Mr. Bohl is a Republican. He has never held public office. He is a member of the Danish Lutheran Church of Albert Lea. His beautiful farm home is situated about two miles from Albert Lea.

**S. M. Beighley**, the well liked merchant of Gordonsville, was born February 18, 1856, in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, son of Simon Peter and Louisa (Miller) Beighley. His father was a tanner by trade, who came to Minnesota in 1856, and homesteaded land in Shell Rock township, making his home here until 1907, at which time he retired from active life, and makes his



home with his son James A. He served in the Indian outbreak at Fort Ridgley, Fort Snelling, Birch Cooley and New Ulm; and also fought for the Union in Company C, Fifth Regiment, Minnesota Infantry. S. M., the subject of this biography attended school in Gordonsville, and completing his education he went to work on the farm. Some time later he purchased a farm for himself, and here was engaged in general farming together with buying and selling stock and grain. In 1888 he erected the building in Gordonsville in which he is now carrying on business, and here keeps a fine line of confectionery. He is also interested in buying and selling stock. He is one of a family of nine children, having three brothers and five sisters. Mr. Beighley has served in many offices of trust in the township, and at present he is serving as a member of the school board. Together with his business interests in Gordonsville, he owns a fruit farm in Arkansas, and is one of the ambitious and energetic men in the township.

**James Rassmusson**, living in Dunbar, Faribault county, was born September 24, 1860, in Raymond township, Racine county, Wisconsin. He is the son of Jacom C. Rasmusson, who came to America in 1856, and located in Wisconsin. At the breaking out of the Civil War he removed to Bath, Freeborn county, and in 1866 he purchased land in Dunbar, Faribault county, and here made his home. Jacob C. Rassmusson experienced the hardships and privations of pioneer life, and hauled his grain by team to Hastings, on the Mississippi river. He died in 1882, and his wife in 1888.

James, the subject of this sketch, grew up on the farm and married Christina, daughter of Jens Hanson. They have four children, Jesse M., Mable J., Hartie P., and Ethel V. Mr. Rassmusson lived in section 30, Freeborn township, Freeborn county, remaining there two years. He had previously lived at Wells for three years, and is now living at the old homestead at Dunbar. Mr. Rassmusson has 160 acres in Faribault county, and 160 in Freeborn county. In 1884 he and his brother John bought the first steam thresher in this section of the country.

**Peter Kvale**, who is in charge of the Emmons Creamery, was born on his father's farm in Nunda, May 7, 1880, the son of Thoud and Ingra Kvale, who were among the early pioneers of Freeborn county. He attended the country schools, and always having a strong inclination to books and study, he did well in his school work. After he had completed the common school, he worked at home with his father till he was twenty-one years of age, and then went to the Minnesota University, where he took a full course in dairying. Having completed this course he was offered and accepted a position with the Clover Valley



Creamery of Pickerel Lake, where he remained in charge four years. The Emmons Creamery was formerly in charge of an especially good man who was ambitious, and with the enthusiastic support of the members of the board was enabled to step from there into a very lucrative position in government employe. At this time the board were on the lookout for another man equally good, and decided on the subject of this biography as the man. It was in 1907 that Mr. Kvale came to his present position, and long ago all concerned were of the opinion that he was the right man for the place. Mr. Kvale is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes with the Republican party. On May 26, 1901, he married Jensena Lah, of Iowa, and to them have been born four children, Ingra, Joseph, Myrtle and Pearl.

**Edward K. Hovland**, who is a member of one of the old families of Nunda township was born August 18, 1879, the son of Knut O. Hovland, who came to Freeborn county in 1861, and settled in Nunda, where he lived till his death in 1906. It was here that the subject of this biography was born and grew to manhood. After finishing his school years he worked on the home farm for some years, and then went to the Dakotas, where he worked out for farmers for three years. In 1907 the brothers and sisters, together with the subject of this sketch, acquired by inheritance, 160 acres of land in section 24, Mansfield. He has here made his home, his brother Louis and sister Annie living with him. He had found dairy farming profitable, and keeps a good herd of Guernsey cattle, some of which are registered. His dairy product is sold to the Emmons Creamery, in which he is a stock holder. Mr. Hovland is a Lutheran Church member. Although Mr. Hovland is a strong Republican, he has never sought office, but is a worker for what he chooses to call clean politics, and does not spare time when necessary to work for this cause.

**Ole Anderson Gudvangen**, who after a five-year stay in the far west returned in 1911 to his farm in section 33, Mansfield, is a native of Norway, and was born May 18, 1852. He settled in Stoughton, Wis., when he first came to the United States, in 1870, where he worked for a time before coming to Freeborn county. He then located in Albert Lea, where he worked as a laborer for seven years. He did not like the town life and removed to the country, where he rented land two years, after which time he bought the farm where he now resides. He now owns 170 acres in Iowa and Minnesota. In 1906 he was one of many who went to the far west, where he bought thirty-five acres of fruit land in Washington. He here cultivated fruit, and followed dairy farming for five years which he found profitable, but feeling that Minnesota was his real home he returned



here, and as soon as he can dispose of his property in Washington advantageously he will make his permanent home here. He rents his land in Minnesota, and looks after it as best he may without actively engaging in farm work. On July 10, 1878, he married Betsy Johnson, of Freeborn county, and to this union has been born fifteen children, twelve of whom are living: Andrew, John, Alexander, Oscar, Edith, Olin, Alma, Gena, Sorena and one pair of twins, Nels and Erick, Enve, Karolina, Bertina and Anvina. Mr. Gudvangen is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he votes the Republican ticket but is in the front of the progressive movement.

**J. L. Sorenson**, who for the past three years has been assistant cashier and manager of the Clarks Grove State Bank, is one of the progressive men in the township. He was born in Martin county, Minnesota, July 27, 1883. His parents are A. C. and Louise (Lawrenson) Sorenson, natives of Denmark, who came to the United States in the pioneer days and located in Minnesota. For many years the father carried on general farming in Martin county, but finally moved to Albert Lea and is now engaged in buying and selling grain. To himself and wife eleven children were born, of whom ten are living. J. L., their son, received a practical business education, which began in the district school and on his father's farm. When he had grown to manhood he for a short time worked on a farm, after which he was employed by the C. M. & St. P. Ry. Co., as baggage-man in Albert Lea. He remained in this position for more than a year and then secured a position as yard clerk in the Union Station for the C. R. I. & P. Later he was brakeman for this railroad, serving as such for a period of four years. He then resigned and was elected to occupy the office in the bank in which he is employed at the present time. He married Anna Berglund, a daughter of Peter Berglund, July, 1904, and their home has been gladdened by the birth of a daughter, Ruth E. Mr. Sorenson has the respect of his fellow men and is worthy of the responsible position which they have elected him to occupy. Practically he upholds the tenets of the Republican party but his many business interests have prevented his taking active parts in the political affairs of the township.

**A. L. Tracy**, a retired farmer residing in the village of Freeborn, was born in Onondaga county, New York, son of Eri Tracy, a carpenter by trade, who became a farmer in later years. Mr. Tracy first saw the light of day May 27, 1831, and he grew to manhood in New York and received his education in the country schools near his old home. He married Annie Stone, a resident of Cattaraugus county, and the family moved to Wisconsin in 1870. Three years later Mr. Tracy and his wife came to Free-



born township and lived with Jerome Wilbur. One year later they purchased material and erected a house on this farm and eventually were able to buy eighty acres of said farm, located in Section 33. Here, Mr. Tracy conducted agricultural pursuits and by dint of hard work and good management made his property yield abundantly and become more valuable each year. To Mr. and Mrs. Tracy one daughter, Idella, was born, and she is now the wife of Freemont Snyder, and has five children, Elsie, married to O. G. Christgan, a lawyer of Wheaton, Ill.; Elma, the wife of Dr. J. P. McDowell of St. Paul; Verian, now Mrs. F. M. Buchanan; Lora, a school teacher, and George B. Mr. Tracy has given up his work on the farm and is enjoying the reward of his years of toil, which are a comfortable home and plenty with which to provide for the needs of himself and estimable wife.

**Guy J. Chaffee**, now employed by the Huntting Elevator Company at Freeborn, was born in Wisconsin February 7, 1873. His parents, J. E. and Josephine (Bassett) Chaffee have charge of the hotel at Lansing, Minn., and it was here that they have made their home since coming to this state. Guy J., the subject of this sketch, received his schooling in Wisconsin and upon reaching Lansing he secured employment with O. C. LaBar. He remained with him for four years learning the grain and elevator business, after which he came to Freeborn, in which town he has resided four years. His wife, Emma (Stimson), is the daughter of Bert Stimson, a retired farmer of Austin, who was one of the pioneer residents of Udolpho township. To Mr. and Mrs. Chaffee one child has been born, Miles. Mr. Chaffee is a member of the M. W. A. and also the B. A. Y. orders, and he is one of the active and enterprising men in the locality, whose natural business ability is sure to win him a place among the successful men in Freeborn.

**H. G. Hunte** is a progressive and well liked resident of the township of Freeborn. He was born in Will county, Illinois, September 1, 1865, son of Henry and Dortha Hunte, the former of whom was a native of Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States and located in Illinois. H. G., the son, attended school near his father's farm and worked for his father when a boy. When he had grown to manhood he left the old home and came to Minnesota and secured employment of Mr. Theeds, for whom he worked two years. He went back to Illinois in 1890 and remained a year and then returned to Freeborn, where he again worked on a farm. Later he went to Fairbault county, where he rented land and was engaged in agricultural industries for a period of five years, and during this time he purchased the farm which he now owns in section 28, Freeborn township. Alvena Rafoth became his wife and their home has



been gladdened by the following: George H., Ella E., and Herman H. Mr. Hunte's well improved farm comprises 120 acres of land and he has a large and comfortable house and good out buildings. He has put in over 600 rods of tiling for drainage purposes and is constantly striving to better his property. He and his wife are members of the M. B. A. lodge, but he does not take any active part in the political affairs of the township.

**Thomas J. Howser**, the well known farmer of Freeborn township, first saw the light of day in Ohio, April 8, 1855. His parents were David and Eliza (McCoy) Howser, the former of whom fought in the Civil War, and there contracted an illness which eventually resulted in his death. Thomas J. came to Livingston county, Illinois, and was engaged in farming there for twenty-two years, later moving to western Kansas, where he remained five years; proving up on a homestead of 160 acres in Logan county, Kansas, he then went to Nebraska, but returned to Iowa shortly and made his home in that state for the following seven years. Coming to Freeborn township in 1907 he purchased a farm in section 33, comprising 156¾ acres, and two years later moved his family to this place. Here he has successfully demonstrated that Minnesota can grow as good corn as any of her sister states. At the Farmers' Short Course in Albert Lea, in 1909, Mr. Howser took the first prize for the best corn grown in the southern part of the state, the prize was a silo; the following year he won the second prize of \$25.00 for the best corn exhibited. He has shown that a small farm well cultivated and cared for yields greater profits than a large one partially worked. Ida Stilson, a daughter of George and Lura (McDowell) Stilson, deceased, married Mr. Howser and this union has resulted in four children: George A., Louis G., Darwin V., and Ruth G., all of whom are at home. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge, and a man whose genial manner has won for him a host of friends.

**Peter Jacobsen**, one of the thriving farmers of Freeborn township, is a native of the island of Moen, Denmark, where he first saw the light on January 23, 1852. He is the son of Jacob Larson. Peter came to America in 1872 and first worked in Alden upon his arrival in Minnesota. In 1876 he purchased a farm in section 33, in Freeborn township, where he still resides. Mr. Jacobsen married Cassia Christianson, and four children bless their home. They are: Alma Clara, died February 6, 1902; William H., who married Abbie McClellan, and who has one child, Alma; Henry and Mary, both living at home. The farm on which Mr. Jacobsen lives has steadily expanded with the passing years until it now comprises 200 acres. He makes a



specialty of fine Holstein cattle and is one of the most prosperous farmers in the township. He is a member of the M. W. A.

**Masse Petersen**, a native of Germany, was born June 25, 1870. He is the son of Christian and Mary Petersen. His father came to America from Germany about 1879 or 1880 and first rented a farm in Freeborn township. Afterwards he bought eighty acres in Hartland township. The subject of this sketch is engaged in farming. He married Birdie G., the daughter of C. F. Leonard. They have one child, Leroy L. Mr. Petersen is a member of the M. W. A. and M. B. A.

**Albert Hansen**, one of the industrious younger farmers of Freeborn township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, was born in Indianapolis, Ind., April 30, 1881. He is the son of Nels Hansen, who was born in Denmark, January 11, 1845. When Nels was 22 years of age he served eighteen months in the standing army. In 1870 he came to America and located in Indianapolis, where he was employed in the blacksmith trade for ten years. In 1874 he married Christiana Hansen, who was also a native of Denmark. The Hansen family came West and located in Freeborn village in the summer of 1881. They soon moved onto a farm of 160 acres, in section 26, Freeborn township, where they still reside. The subject of this sketch lives with his parents and his life is that of a busy farmer from day to day. Albert Hansen is a member of the M. W. A. and A. F. & A. M., has been constable for three terms and is at the present time a member of the board of supervisors.

**William Guthier**, who was formerly the genial hotel keeper and later druggist of Emmons, is a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he was born May 10, 1873, son of Philip and Helen (Ottmeyer) Guthier, both natives of Germany. They were among the early day immigrants who came to Wisconsin and settled in Fond du Lac county, where they farmed, later coming to Minnesota. The father died in 1900, nine years after the mother. William was educated in the common schools of Blue Earth county, and later he completed the course in pharmacy in the University of Minnesota. He then came to Emmons and for a time was associated with Dr. Freeman in the drug store here. Having had experience he went to Nobles county, where he bought and conducted a store two years. At the end of this time he returned to Emmons, having other interests in this locality which needed his attention. He here bought the drug store from Dr. Freeman and conducted it a while, but later sold out. While in Emmons he has been in many lines of business interests. He built and ran the hotel here four and one-half years, and though he was successful in the hotel work, he had to give it up because of his wife's health. He

also built the telephone system at Emmons, later selling to the present owners. He converted his hotel building into a store building in which he conducted his drug business. In 1891 he married Teressa Schimmele, a daughter of Casper Schimmele, who is a veteran of the Civil War and one of the pioneers of Blue Earth county. To Mr. and Mrs. Guthier have been born two children, Clayton and Margaret. The subject of this biography is an independent voter but active in political affairs when he has the time from business to give to such activities. When in Nobles county he was elected mayor of Dundee and has been a member of the village council in Emmons three successive years. He is a member of the Masonic order, M. W. A., A. O. U. W., and is as popular socially as he is in his business associations.

**Hudson Pettit** was born in Rosville, Ia., July 23, 1858, the son of Hiram M. and Elesif Pettit, who took a homestead in section 1, Mansfield, in 1864. Hiram M. was a native of Pennsylvania and came west to Iowa and enlisted with Company I, 27th Volunteer Infantry, served through the war with this command and returned with them. After his return from the war he farmed in Mansfield. He died January 30, 1908. Hudson grew to manhood here and when 20 years of age he began renting land for farming and now owns eighty acres in section 1. On December 12, 1878, he married Addie Walker, of Alden, and to them have been born six children, two of whom are living, Lilie and Lulu. Mr. Pettit is a Republican and has been a member of the school board district 74 about fifteen years.

**Frank W. Lovestrom** was born in St. Ansgar, Ia., August 19, 1884, the son of Gustave and Charlotte Lovestrom. He was educated in the common schools of St. Ansgar and later in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, Ia., where he took the normal and business courses. After completing his studies he was employed by the Winnebago State Bank of Forest City and by the St. Ansgar Bank for a period of one year. After this he went to Adams, N. D., where he went into the newspaper business with his brother John. He later bought a paper at Nekoma, N. D., which he subsequently sold and took the managership of the Park River (N. D.) "Republican." He later worked for the the Albert Lea "Standard" one year. It was while in Albert Lea that the business men of Emmons induced him to take the Emmons "Leader," which he is at present publishing, and also doing a good business in job work, having taken charge in February, 1911. On December 22, 1909, he married Minnie Gullickson, of Park River, N. D.

**O. N. Olson**, the popular merchant of Emmons, is the son of Nels and Anna (Emmons) Olson and was born in Nunda in 1867.



His mother was a member of the Emmons family, for whom the village is named, and the subject of this biography has been closely identified with the village from boyhood. His father was one of the pioneers in this locality. O. N., realizing the advantage of an education, went to Albert Lea schools, where he finished his education. Returning from Albert Lea and school he went into the lumber business in the village and carried on a constantly increasing business in this line for five years. He later engaged in a general merchandise business in the building now occupied by the postoffice. He sold this business and for a time worked in the local mill as helper. He liked this work and soon became manager, which position he occupied three years. Having been in business for himself he wished to be on his own responsibility once more and opened his present store after he had resigned as manager of the mill. He here carries a well selected stock of goods, usually to the amount of near \$6,000, and his trade is steadily demanding greater variety and volume, which he meets, and thus holds an excellent trade among the best people of the locality. In 1895 Mr. Olson married Caroline Knutson, a daughter of Ole and (Ingeborg Verke) Knutson, natives of Norway, who came to America in recent years. Mr. Knutson died some years ago; the mother still lives near Emmons. To Mr. and Mrs. Olson have been born two children, Norris and Olendo. The subject of this sketch is an independent voter, believing that man seeking an office is more to be considered than the party organization which has placed his name on the ticket. He has held several offices which he felt he could administrate without too great a loss of time from his business: among these are, director of village school board, nine years; town clerk assessor several terms, as well as minor offices. He worships at the Lutheran Church and is an active member of the Sons of Norway. Mr. Olson by his work as carpenter, miller, and merchant has done much to advance the prosperity of his village. He gives his effort to give the people at home advantage of the same markets they could have by going to other and larger towns and this is a convenience for the purchaser and is essential in building up local pride and a growing town.

**Gunder Clemmetson**, the popular merchant of Emmons, is a native of Norway, where he was born February 14, 1858, son of Clemmet and Emma Torgerson. They came to America in 1856 and settled in Freeborn county, Nunda township, later moving across the state line into Iowa. Here they followed farming the remainder of their lives. The mother died in 1874; the father in 1906. Gunder is one of a family of ten children, namely, Ole, Christi, Tena, Henry, Simon, John, and Caroline and Sigri, only one of whom (Emma) is dead. The subject of



this biography received his education in the common schools of the county and later worked on the home farm. He followed farming till 1900, at which time he came to Emmons and purchased from his brother the store which he had conducted some years. Since that time he has engaged in the mercantile business here. In 1880 he married Betsy Sorbo, daughter of Ole and Gunvur Sorbo, natives of Norway, who were pioneers in Worth county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Clemmetson have been born three children: Emma, who is now Mrs. Adolph Leonhardi, and Grace, who is at home; Emma, the first child, is deceased. Formerly a Republican and now a progressive, Mr. Clemmetson endeavors to cast his ballot and use his influence for the best men, rather than for party organization. He is a member of the village council at present and has held town and other offices while living in Worth county, Iowa. He is a member and an active worker in the Lutheran Church and belongs to several fraternities, among which are M. B. A., A. O. U. W. and Sons of Norway.

**Henry A. Ebert**, the prosperous hardware merchant of Alden, was born in Jackson county, Minnesota, in 1871. His parents were Fred and Bertha (Hohenstein) Ebert, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1864 and settled in Minnesota. He spent his boyhood attending the district school near his old home and working for his father on the farm, and when he had reached the age of 20 years, he secured a position as a clerk and was employed in this capacity for eight years. At the end of this period he was able to assume the responsibility of conducting a business, so he and his father bought the store in Alden, and he bought his father's interest in the business in 1903 and has since conducted it. He carries a large stock of hardware and harness and his careful management and hard work have made him one of the successful merchants in the village. He married Ada Packard, daughter of A. M. Packard, and they have two children, Veryl and Carrol. That Mr. Ebert has the confidence and esteem of the residents of Alden is shown by his serving as treasurer of the town for the past ten years. He is in every respect a public-spirited citizen.

**James A. Finley**, who for many years has held various offices of trust and responsibility in his township, is one of the prominent men in Alden. He was born in New Castle, Pa., March 19, 1868, and came to Minnesota with his parents, Alexander and Eliza (Johnston) Finley in 1882. He attended school in district 130, Alden township, and there acquired his early education. For five years after leaving school he worked as a carpenter in South Dakota, after which he returned to Minnesota and located in Mansfield, where he bought a farm on which he conducted



diversified farming for a period of two years. He then sold this piece of property and purchased 160 acres of land in Alden, in section 34, and here has a well kept and valuable farm, which now comprises 340 acres. He has a large portion of this farm under careful cultivation and engages in general and dairy farming. He married Alice, daughter of C. M. and Maletha (Metz) Oliver, and their home has been gladdened by the following children: Russell, Max, Claude, Carl, Faith, Merle and Grace.

**Alexander Finley**, a well known resident of Douglas county, was born in Ireland and came to America in 1846. He located first in Pennsylvania, where he was employed as a stone mason, and later he went to New Castle and secured employment in the iron works of that place. Wishing to see more of the country, and aiming to better his financial condition, he left Pennsylvania and spent one year in Illinois, after which he moved to Mansfield and became a farmer. Several years later he went to Alden and was here engaged in farming, an occupation which he conducted most successfully. He married Eliza Johnston of Pennsylvania, and they are the parents of James A. Finley, a progressive farmer of Alden.

**Dr. J. H. Gleason**, dentist and newspaper-man, was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, March 28, 1877, son of John and Rebecca (White) Gleason. His parents were natives of New York state and came to Goodhue in 1851. The father for some years drove the stage from Red Wing to Clear Lake, Ia., and later took a homestead in Goodhue county. He died in 1902; the mother is living with her daughter in Alden. J. H. was educated in the common schools of Goodhue county, and followed this with a high school course. After completing the high school, in 1894, he attended the business college in Red Wing two terms. He later took the complete course in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. From the dental college he graduated in 1901 and soon after located in Alden, where he soon gained a lucrative practice. In 1909 he bought the Alden "Advance" and has since been successful in the newspaper work without injury to his dental practice. In 1902 he married Grace Lockwood, of Ackley, Ia. Dr. Gleason is a leader in the Republican circles of his vicinity and has been mayor of Alden three terms. In the fall of 1910 he was a candidate for Legislature and received the Republican nomination at the primaries, but was defeated at the general election. For a young man and one who is in a sense a new comer in the locality, he has made a great number of friends, who believe in him and have confidence in his judgment and ability. Though he has had responsibility placed on him before, it does not need the gift of prophecy to see that he will in the coming years be called upon to assume greater responsi-

bility for his party and locality than he has in the past. He is a member of the B. P. O. E., M. W. A. and I. O. O. F.

**A. V. Garlock, M. D.**, is a rising young doctor who is rapidly establishing a large practice in the town and township of Hartland. He was born in Carlston, September 22, 1884, son of John L. and Selina (Trigg) Garlock, the former of whom is a native of the Empire State and the latter of English birth. They came to Minnesota in 1866, where the father followed the occupation of farming until 1897, when they moved into the town of Wells and reside there at present. A. V., their son, went to the district school near Wells and later attended the high school in town. After finishing school he was employed for a year at teaching, after which he spent the succeeding five years in the drug business. In time he decided to practice medicine and went to Minneapolis and entered the Hamlin University for two years, and then the Northwestern College of Medicine, at Chicago, two years. He graduated from this institution in 1910, and came to Hartland in 1911, where he enjoys a large practice. He is a member of the M. B. A. lodge, M. W. A. and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**James Christianson, B. S. and M. D.**, was born in Denmark August 15, 1871, son of Christian and Lena (Hemmingsen) Sorensen. He acquired his early education in his native land and came to the United States in 1892, where he was employed for some time as a farmer. He worked on a farm near Alden, Minn., and during the winter following attended school at Elkhorn, Ia.; later he attended the Normal Academy in Waterloo. After completing the course at this academy, he attended the State Normal School at Cedar Falls, Ia., and completed the course in Didactic and graduated from this institution in 1899. He then engaged in the study of medicine in the Iowa State University and graduated in 1905 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, besides his degree of Doctor of Medicine. While in attendance at the State University he was an assistant instructor in pathology and bacteriology. He came to Alden in 1905 and established his office and he has won the confidence of the residents of that community. He married Maude Brachney, daughter of J. W. Brachney, of Washta, Ia., in 1906. He at present is health officer of the city of Alden, county physician, and a member of the I. O. O. F., the M. B. A., M. W. A. and D. B. S. lodges, and he is also a member of the National Grange.

**George P. Meadowcroft**, who for the past eight years has been clerk of London township, and also taken an active interest in the educational advancement of the town by serving as a member of the school board for ten years, is one of the popular and progressive men in that community. He was born in Wisconsin



in 1854 and his parents, James and Katherine Meadowcroft, moved to Minnesota and located in London in 1865, where the father, though a tailor by trade, engaged in general farming, which industry he conducted most successfully. He passed away in 1875 and is survived by his widow and sons, James, George and William, and a daughter, Ellen. The subject of this biography attended the county schools when a boy, and assisted his father with the farm work, and, when he was 17 years old, he began working for himself, and for four years was employed by different farmers in the locality. At the end of this period he purchased some land and has added to this as he has been able and now owns eighty acres in section 11, London township; also 320 acres located in North Dakota. He carries on general and dairy farming and by hard work and good management has made his land most productive. Mrs. Jennie Bonallie Sang became his wife in December, 1899, and to them one daughter, Ima, has been born. Mr. Meadowcroft is a Socialist in his political views and he is recognized as a thoughtful and serious minded citizen, whose opinions are respected by friend and neighbor.

**Alba F. Bump** is a native of this county, having been born in London township, October 19, 1880. His parents, Percy and Marietta Bump, came to Minnesota from New York. The father served three years in the Civil War and was lieutenant in the Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteers. At the close of the war he returned to London and purchased 240 acres of land in sections 22 and 27. He retired from active farming in 1894 and moved into the city of Austin, where he resides at present, and where he has taken an active part in the political affairs of the town. Alba F., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the schools in Austin and after finishing his education, he took up the work of the home farm, on which he resides now. He is interested in general and dairy farming and is vice-president of the Enterprise Creamery. On November 19, 1902, he was married to Ida Davison, and to them have been born three children: Thelma May, Edna Marietta, and Percy Fay. Mr. Bump is a staunch member of the Republican party and he belongs to the M. W. A. He is interested in all movements which tend to the betterment of his township and county.

**J. R. Lukes**, the well known owner of the grain elevator at London, was born at Cleveland, Ohio, July 30, 1873. His parents, Anton and Mary (Vana) Lukes, were natives of Bohemia, who emigrated from that country to this in 1870 and located at Cleveland. Here the father worked at his trade as a wagon maker for many years, but eventually engaged in the grocery business until his retirement. J. R., his son and subject of this biography, was an ambitious and industrious boy, receiving his



primary education in the graded schools of Cleveland, and later attending night school, working during the day as a carpenter. When he was 21 years of age he decided to come West and make his way in the world. He worked for a time at his trade as carpenter in Freeborn county and then taught school for four terms. In 1902 he accepted a position as the manager of the Central Lumber and Coal Company at London, and performed the duties of this office most ably for five years. He took charge of the grain elevator in 1907, which he had purchased four years previous to that time, and where he is engaged in business at present, buying and selling all grains grown in this fertile state. Annie Raymond, daughter of Joseph Raymond, one of the first settlers in Oakland township, was married to Mr. Lukes in 1898 and a daughter has come to brighten their home; Libby. Mr. Lukes has ever taken an active interest in the affairs of his community, was clerk of the school board three terms, is a stockholder in the creamery and also stockholder and director in the London State Bank. He is a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges at Lyle, Minn., and of the Z. C. B. J. He favors the policies of the Socialists and votes with them.

**Charles L. Butts**, retired farmer and veteran of the Civil War, was born in La Grange county, Indiana, in 1844, the son of Jacob and Sarah Butts. In 1856 he came to Minnesota and made his first home in this state in Ramsey, where he secured employment until the war between the North and South broke out and then he enlisted in Company K, Fourth Minnesota Volunteers, and went to the front. He saw active service in the following battles: Chickamauga, Corinth, Iouka, Vicksburg and Nashville, as well as many other battles of less importance. In 1865 he was honorably discharged and came to Austin, where he was employed at masonry work for several years. In 1887 he purchased eighty acres of land in section 24, London township, and followed general farming. He made many improvements on his property, including a large and very comfortable dwelling house, surrounded by a fine lawn and hedges, and he owns a valuable productive orchard. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party and he is a member of the G. A. R. Adeline Markett, born in New Hampshire in 1854, became his wife December 20, 1871, and their marriage has resulted in two children: Cora, now the wife of Chris Carson, and Maude, who married William Wynn, of Mower county. They are members of the Christian Church.

**Joseph Chrs**, an early settler in this county, was born in Bohemia, where he grew to manhood and was married. He came to America in 1867, and located first in Chicago, where he remained for three years, after which he came to Minnesota and





JOSEPH CHRS AND FAMILY





located in Mower county. In 1873 he moved to this county and settled on section 36, Hayward township, where he carried on general farming for five years, after which he went to section 24, there following the same occupation. In 1905, he retired from active life and moved into the village of Glenville, where he resides at the present time. Mr. Chrs married Frances Benes, of Bohemia, and their son, Joseph, is a prosperous farmer of Shell Rock.

**Joseph Chrs, Jr.**, an influential citizen of Shell Rock township, was born in Bohemia, January 6, 1856, son of Joseph and Frances (Benes) Chrs. He acquired his education in the schools of his native land and came to America in 1867. For a period of four years after his arrival in this country Mr. Chrs was engaged in farming in Illinois, after which he went to Chicago, where he secured employment in a box factory, and he worked there for four years. In the fall of 1875, he came to Minnesota and located on section 35, Hayward township. He purchased eighty acres at first and added to this as prosperity afforded, until he now owns 400 acres. In 1901 he purchased the farm on which he resides at the present time, moving to this location in 1903. This valuable farm is situated in section 8, and has been well improved and made more productive each year under the care given by Mr. Chrs. He is a loyal Republican, and he has held various offices in the townships in which he has made his home, having served as supervisor, also member of the school board for many years. He is a stockholder in the Citizens State Bank, at Glenville, and also a stockholder in the Glenville Creamery. He owes his present prosperous condition to his own efforts, having been an industrious man whose good judgment and common sense have won the respect of his fellow citizens. He was married March 3, 1878, to Josephine Schradle, who is also of Bohemian birth, and to them have been born five children, of whom, Emma, is the wife of John Funfar, of Hayward; Anton works the old farm in Hayward; Josephine, married Thomas Pocosky, of Hayward; Anna, lives at home; Joseph Lewis, is at home. The family faith is that of the Catholic Church.

**H. R. Buchanan**, who is a progressive farmer residing in Shell Rock township, was born December 26, 1878, son of William Buchanan, of Canadian birth. He spent his boyhood days attending school in district number 50 and helping his father on the farm. When he completed his primary course in the country school he went to the Nora Springs Seminary, pursuing his studies there for two years, after which he returned to his home and there assisted his father for a time. He was given eighty acres of land by his father and later he purchased thirty acres and he has nearly all of it under a high state of cultivation, and



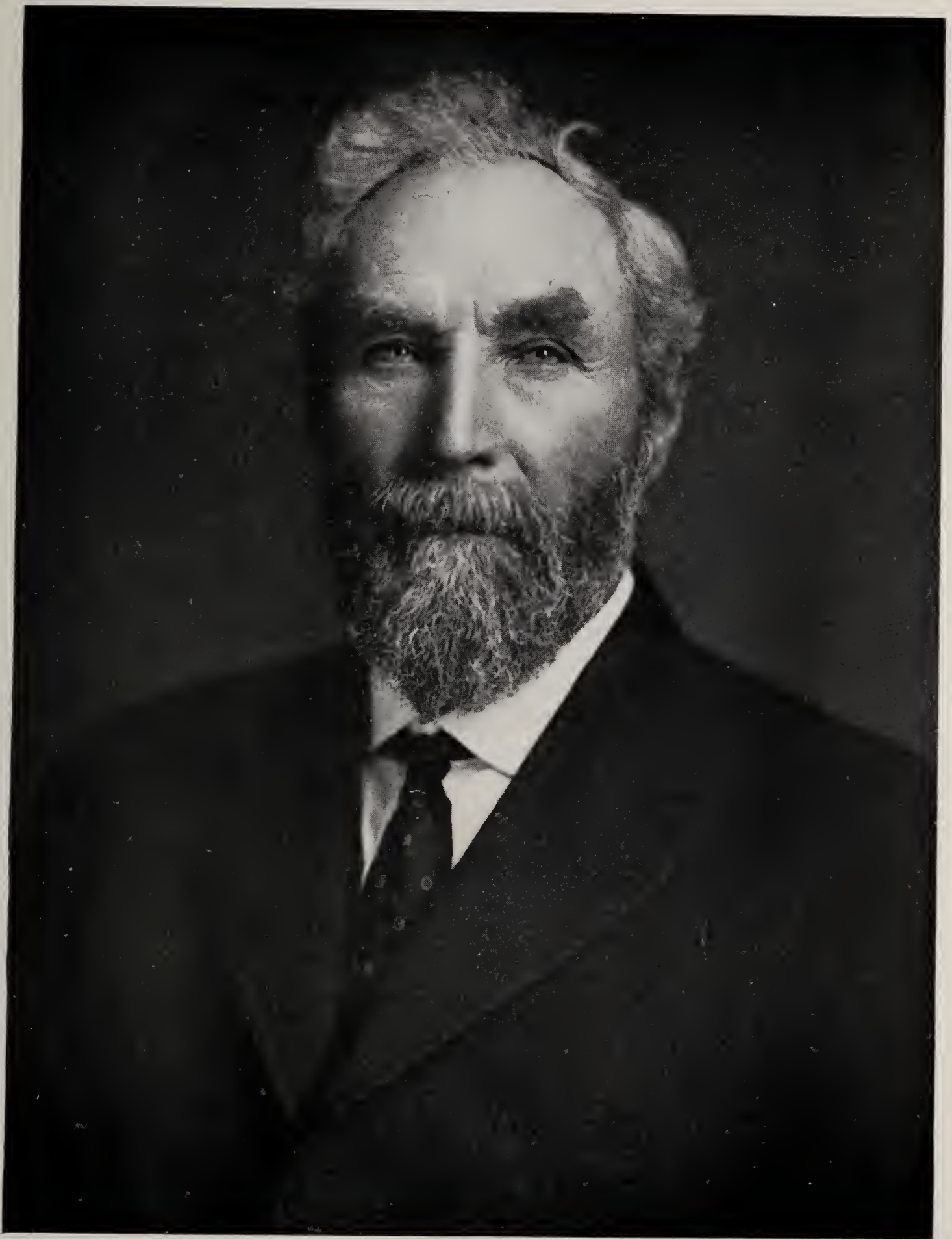
here he conducts general farming. Sena Borshem, of Worth county, Iowa, became his wife March 22, 1904, and three children have come to bless their home: Archie, Doris and Sidney. Mr. Buchanan is an independent voter, but has devoted most of his life to carrying on the work of his farm and has not mingled in politics.

**S. R. Buchanan** was born September 15, 1883, the son of William and Ruth (Beighley) Buchanan, who came to Freeborn county in the sixties and located in Shell Rock, where William Buchanan acquired 500 acres of land and carried on extensive farming operations until 1907. In 1907 he moved to Northwood, Ia., where he now resides and buys and ships stock. S. R. was educated in the common schools of the county, followed by a two years' course at Nora Springs Seminary, where he completed the business course in 1904. After finishing his studies he taught in the business department of his alma mater two years. He later returned to Shell Rock township and rented the old home farm of 280 acres and here carries on general farming and stock raising. In 1907 he married Mabel Gullickson, of Northwood, Ia., and to them two children, Arcley Ann and Wilbur Ross, have been born. Mr. Buchanan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a Republican and has served as member of the board of supervisors, and is now town clerk.

**Anders Pedersen**, a farmer citizen of Carlston township, was born in Torpe, Moen, Denmark, October 27, 1839. He migrated from his native land to America in 1869. After a short stay in Wisconsin he moved west to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn county. The first year he worked on farms in the neighborhood during harvest season and during the fall and winter was employed in a furniture store in Owatonna. Meantime he had purchased ninety acres of land in Carlston township. In the spring of 1869 he was married to Bodil Kirstine Jensen, and moved onto the farm he bought. To them were born two sons: Jens P., born April 27, 1870, and Harold, born October 31, 1871. Jens P. now owns the fine home farm, which has expanded to 210 acres, all under cultivation, and his father is living with him. Harold is living at Holyoke, Col. He is married and has two children, George and Helen. Anders Pedersen, the subject of this sketch, has been assessor and supervisor of Carlston township and is one of the highly respected citizens of his community. Mrs. Pedersen died in 1897.

**H. M. Wulff**, the agreeable and genial postmaster of Hartland village, is a native of Norway, having been born in that country on the second day of June, 1847. His education was acquired in the schools of his native land and he there learned the carpenter's trade. When he was 19 years old, he sailed from the shores of





ANDERS PEDERSEN





the homeland and came to America, landing at Quebec. Later that same year he came west, first stopping in Detroit, Mich., and later making Chicago his headquarters. He remained in Chicago for ten years, working at carpentry and eventually was employed on the police force. In 1877, he came to Minnesota and settled in Hartland, where he followed his trade for two years and was appointed constable and marshal of the village, and later, deputy sheriff of the county. Mr. Wulff served in this capacity for five years and then engaged in farming. His farm was situated in sections 18 and 19, and the following nine years after he purchased this farm he tilled the soil and made many improvements on his land. In 1903 he moved into the village of Hartland and received the appointment of postmaster. Mr. Wulff married Belle Brietson, who is of Norwegian birth and parentage, and to this marriage ten children have been born: Harry, Agnes, Bella, Dora, Helma, Oscar, Hjalmar and Jacob; Dansforth and another Jacob are deceased. Agnes is the wife of E. R. Hopperstad, and they have one son, Ronald; Dora married Earl Cram and they are the parents of Ennis. The many responsible offices in the township which Mr. Wulff has occupied prove him to be a man who has the entire confidence and esteem of the residents of the community in which he resides.

**J. D. Bighley**, a respected citizen of Gordonsville, was born in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, August 14, 1866. His parents were W. H. and Sarah Bighley, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Minnesota in 1868 and located on section 21, Shell Rock township. Here they followed general farming until the Grim Reaper summoned them. Their son, the subject of this sketch, worked with his father on the farm and attended the school near his father's residence. When he completed his education, he learned telegraphy, an occupation which he followed for two years. He then went to Wisconsin, and became a carpenter, working at this trade for two years, after which he returned to Shell Rock and was employed by the Eckert and Williams Lumber Company four years ago and made its manager. Shortly after this, the business was sold to a new company and Mr. Bighley returned to his former occupation, at which he continued until 1907, when he secured the position of manager of the lumber yards at Gordonsville, owned by the F. L. Crane Lumber Company of Austin, and here he is employed at the present time. Emma Piper, of Reeseville, Wis., became his wife in 1891, and their home has been brightened by the arrival of two children: Myrtle and Mabel. In political views, Mr. Bighley favors the Prohibition party and he is a member of the American Yoemen.

**J. H. Lightly**, a prominent citizen of Oakland, is of American parentage. His father and mother, John and Sarah (Earl)



Lightly, were natives of New York State and they came to Wisconsin about 1846, where they remained for a period of ten years, after which they came to Oakland township and homesteaded land and engaged in general farming. It was here that the subject of this sketch was born March 4, 1866. His boyhood was spent helping his father on the home farm and acquiring his early education in the school near his home. In 1900 he assumed entire charge of the farm and his father retired from active life and moved into the village of Oakland, where his death occurred eight years later. From the farm Mr. Lightly went into the village of Oakland and in 1905 established a wagon and repair shop, where he conducts a profitable business now. He is the eldest of a family of nine children: Ed, H. B., C. H., Walter, Lou, Nellie, Rose and one who died in infancy. Mr. Lightly has been tendered several public offices which he never accepted. He attends the Baptist Church and votes with the Republican party. His mother died July 3, 1911.

**Hans N. Bergerson** was born on the farm where he now resides, on June 17, 1864. His parents, Nels and Helen Bergerson, were of the sturdy Norse stock which has done so much to make southern Minnesota the land of comfort which it is today. The mother died January 25, 1885, but the father lived to a ripe old age. He died in 1898, having rounded out a life of many years which were filled with good works, not alone for his family, to which he was devoted, but also to the community in which he lived. Hans N. was educated in the country schools, but when 21 he left school and began farming, and also took up the work of threshing grain for the farmers of his neighborhood, which work he followed eighteen falls. When his father retired from active farming he took up the work of the home place and has since conducted it and there is every evidence that he has done so successfully. He keeps about 35 head of Hereford cattle, raises 50 hogs annually, and keeps 11 head of horses and mules for farm and driving. He is a strong advocate of the dairy farm and is a stockholder in the Emmons Creamery. His farm is one of 130 acres, in section 29, Nunda. On October 4, 1896, he married Emma Iverson, of Silver Lake, Worth county, Iowa, and this union has been blessed with four children, the oldest of whom was Grace Helen, and the first great sadness was brought into the home by her death when but 6 years old. Nora Irene and Henry Earl attend school and with Grace Helen, the baby, make up the family. Mr. Bergerson is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes with the Republican party and has been school clerk in district 44 for the past eight years, and has also held various offices in the creamery and church organizations, as well as being town supervisor one term.



**Knute J. Solland** was born in Wisconsin November 20, 1866, son of John and Ingabra Solland, both natives of Norway. Before he was one year old the family came to Freeborn county and to Nunda, where they homesteaded on section 27. The subject of this sketch was educated in the country schools and worked on his father's farm. The school house where he attended was built of logs and the first dwelling erected for the family was of the same material. After the death of his parents he worked the home place and now has a well improved farm of 240 acres, where he follows dairy and general farming. He has about forty milch cows and assisted in the formation of the Emmons Creamery. Mr. Solland is a Republican and a member of the Lutheran Church. In 1893 he married Gurine Loken, of Nunda, and to them have been born nine children: John, Ida, Jens, Ole, Lewis, Clara and Gena (twins), Bent and Elmer.

**Peter Peterson** is the son of Peter and Randi Peterson, natives of Norway, who were born in 1808 and 1818 respectively, the subject of this sketch was born in Norway, July 2, 1852. In 1861 the family came to the United States and settled in Winneshek county, Iowa, where they lived nine years, and where the son Peter got most of his education. At the end of this time they moved to Freeborn county and settled on section 35, Nunda, where the father died in 1882, and the mother four years earlier. The subject of this biography worked the home farm till 1902, when he sold the land and now does not engage in active farm work. He lives at the home of Theodore Grefsheim. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and is a Republican in politics.

**Theodore O. Grefsheim**, a native of Norway, was born August 22, 1854, the son of Ole and Ellen Grefsheim. When 13 years of age he came to Freeborn county with his parents, who bought forty acres of land. When 15 he began working out and continued to work for farmers of the locality in which he lived for more than ten years, at the end of this time he had saved enough money to enable him to buy 120 acres of land. This first purchase he sold in 1893 and bought 140 acres in section 36, Nunda, where he now resides. He has erected a comfortable dwelling and made many improvements on his farm. He now has an orchard of 100 trees, all in good bearing condition. He keeps a herd of milch cows and sells cream to the Emmons Creamery, which he assisted in organizing. In 1901 he married Barbro Olson and they have one son, Ole, 9 years old, who is in school in home district. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes the Republican ticket.

**Henry Madson**, a native of Norway, is the son of Mads and Stefene Madson, who came to the United States in 1878. The subject of this sketch was born May 7, 1858. On arriving in



Iowa when 20 years of age he at once went to work for farmers and he worked out in Iowa and Minnesota for seven years, and all this time was learning the best methods of carrying on a farm for himself. Having had sufficient experience in this line he bought grain two years. He then went into the stock business and bought cattle and hogs in the country for fifteen years; during this time he became well acquainted in the locality and was ever known as being reliable in all his dealings. In October, 1889, he married Christina Ansen, of Winnebago county, Iowa, and to this union has been born three children: Martin, Selmer and Clarence; all at home. In 1895 he returned to Norway for a visit among his boyhood friends and remained there six months. On his return he bought 220 acres of land in sections 31 and 32, Nunda, where he still resides. His dwelling house and large barn are among the best farm buildings of the township and the constant care and hard work of the family have made this one of the excellent farms of this locality. Mr. Madson is a member of the Lime Creek Lutheran Church. Politically Mr. Madson is a Republican.

**Lewis H. Larson** now resides on the farm in section 36, township of Nunda, where his parents, Helge and Barben Larson, settled when they came here from Norway in 1859, and where the subject of this biography was born on December 26, 1862. He here grew to manhood, attended the country school and did a boy's work on the home farm. When he grew to man's estate he purchased his father's farm and is still continuing improvement of it. He follows general dairy farming. He keeps ten well bred Percheron horses for farming and driving. Mr. Larson is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican and has been clerk of the school district in which he resides for many years; also a director for the the Union Creamery Company for many years. In 1895 he married Bertha Troe, who died in 1904, leaving four children: Harry, George, Luella and Elmer. Recently Mr. Larson married Lena Benson, of Worth county, Iowa.

**Knudt A. Overland**, who has lived in Freeborn county since 1866, is a native of Norway, and was born September 29, 1865. His parents took a homestead in Albert Lea township, where their son Knudt grew up. He received his education in the country schools and later worked on his father's farm, remaining at home till 1890. He then took up the work of well digging and running threshing machines in the fall of the year. In 1900 he rented and later bought 145 acres in section 1, Nunda township, where he now resides. This he has recorded as "Overland Grain and Stock Farm." Aside from the regular work of his farm he represents the Aeromotor Company and for them handles wind mills, as well as all kinds of gas engines. On July 2, 1890, he married



Gunheld Gunderson, of Freeman, and to them have been born ten children: Alvin, Joseph, Arthur, Selma, Alma, Gilbert, Lawrence, Elmer, Luman and Melfa. Mr. Overland is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is independent and has held many offices of trust. He was assessor for two years, justice of peace four years, clerk of school district 76 fifteen years, treasurer of Twin Lakes Creamery twelve years, as well as having various smaller public and church offices.

**Levi H. Petersen**, a progressive farmer, who resides in Bath township, was born October 14, 1878. His parents were H. P. and Annie (Ravn) Petersen, natives of Denmark, and early settlers in Minnesota. The father came to America and located first in Racine, Wis., where he was in business for a short time, after which he went to Cambridge, and from there made the trip to Minnesota in a prairie schooner. He bought a farm in Bath and here he and his wife reared their family of six children, enduring the privations which all the pioneers had to undergo. As the years passed they prospered and made many improvements on their property and provided comforts for their declining years. L. H., their son, spent his youth attending school and learning agricultural pursuits from his father and, when he had grown to manhood he began farming on his own responsibility, and now owns 120 acres of good land. He cultivates about one-half of this property and the remainder is in meadow and pasture land. He carries on general farming, together with stock raising and dairying, for which purpose he raises shorthorn cattle. He married Clara Petersen, daughter of J. W. and Stena (Jensen) Petersen, in 1906, and one child is the result of this marriage: Ruby. Politically, Mr. Petersen favors the Prohibition party. In June, 1908, he sustained a severe loss when his buildings, which had been put in good condition by him and were in fine repair, were blown down by a tornado which swept the county in various localities.

**Paul Hanson**, a prosperous farmer of Clarks Grove, was born in Denmark, February 17, 1852, son of Hans and Maren (Peterson) Paulson. In 1873 he came to America with his parents and located in Bath township. Here they cleared the land and made many improvements, and it was here that the parents died. Paul, the son, was early in life trained for a farmer and he began farming for himself with forty acres of land. He has added to this until he now is the owner of 200 acres, which is kept in a fine state of cultivation. He plows about 160 acres and the remainder is used for pasture and meadow. He carries on general and dairy farming and raises many Poland China hogs. He prefers the shorthorn breed of cattle for general dairy purposes and ships his dairy products to the Clarks Grove Co-operative

Creamery, of which he has been the treasurer for fifteen years. December 9, 1874, Hanna Hansen, daughter of Paul Hansen, a native of Denmark, who was one of the pioneer settlers in Bath, became the wife of Mr. Hanson, and this marriage has resulted in the following children: Andrew; Edward, at home; Mark, in Spokane, Wash.; Harry, working at home; Mary, the wife of Arthur Paulson. Mr. Hanson is regarded as one of the reliable citizens of the town and has for many years held various offices of trust and responsibility, among which are, director of the Co-operative Mercantile Company, director of the State Bank of Clarks Grove and director of the Clarks Grove Lumber and Fuel Company. He is a member of the Baptist Church and one of its substantial financial supporters. He owes his present prosperous condition to his own untiring efforts and hard work and he is a worthy example of a self-made man.

**George Peterson**, an enterprising farmer of Clarks Grove, was born November 15, 1860, in Raymond, Wis., son of Peter and Mary Peterson. He was brought to Bancroft township by his parents in 1862, and the following year the father homesteaded a portion of the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. Mr. Peterson grew to manhood on his father's farm and spent his boyhood days attending the district school in the locality and assisting his father on the farm; he also learned carpenter work. For some years after leaving school he was employed as a carpenter throughout the township, but decided to devote his energies to farming, in which occupation he has since engaged. He owns a farm of 105 acres and rents 160 acres more and here carries on general and dairy farming. He prefers Holstein cattle for dairying purposes and disposes of his dairy products to the local creamery; and he raises a good grade of hogs for which he finds ready market. Mr. Peterson has made many improvements on his farm and its prosperous condition is the result of his hard work and good management. He married Martha S. Lunn, of Danish parentage, and their home has been blessed by the birth of seven children: Ralph, Roy, Lula, Carey, Lovine, Floyd and Glenn, who are all at home. Mr. Peterson has never aspired to public office, but his interest in educational facilities was proven by his circulating the petition among the residents of Clarks Grove for the establishment of a public school in the town. Politically, he is an independent voter, and, financially, one of the substantial residents of the township.

**Peter and Mary Peterson** were early settlers in Raymond, Racine county, Wisconsin, who moved from there to Bancroft township in 1862, where they remained for a year on rented property. Mr. Peterson then homesteaded a farm in Bath township and made his home here with his wife and family. for the



remainder of his days. He was a farmer and many were the hardships which were endured by himself and family during the early portion of their life on their claim, but Mr. Peterson was well fitted to master the privations of those days, having been brought up in a humble log cabin, whose sod roof proved an ineffectual shelter from the rains. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were born ten children, of whom four are living. Christiana, Lena, J. W. and George. Peter and Stena died recently.

**Andrew Hansen**, a genial merchant in the village of Clarks Grove, was born in Bath township August 2, 1877. His parents, Paul and Hanna Hansen, were natives of Denmark who emigrated from the land of their birth and came to America to seek their fortune in 1872. They settled first in Bath township and here acquired some land and began farming. They were frugal and industrious people, who made improvements on their property as rapidly as circumstances enabled them and they now are the owners of a valuable, well tilled farm which comprises 200 acres. Andrew, the son, grew up on his father's farm and like most boys who are sons of farmers, he attended the district school near his home and was kept busy during vacation periods, assisting his father. He later attended the Pillsbury Academy and in 1902 he secured a position as clerk in the Clarks Grove Co-operative Mercantile Company's store. He has served in this institution as secretary for several years and is also one of the stockholders. He votes with the Prohibition party and is a public spirited citizen. He has been elected to serve as justice of the peace in Clarks Grove and has represented the wishes of the people in this capacity.

**Iver Bottolsen**, son of Andrew and Irene (Everson) Bottolsen, is a native of Bancroft township and was born August 27, 1862. His parents are natives of Norway and came to the United States in 1853, locating in Bancroft, where they purchased land at \$1.25 per acre. They here lived in a cellar or dug-out for three years. In 1858 they built a large log house. Here Andrew Bottolsen carried on general farming for the remainder of his life, improved his land and held many public offices for the town. He died June 12, 1884. Iver Bottolsen was educated in the common schools and worked on the home place, which his whole life has been his home. He now follows general farming and is also interested in the dairy business. He keeps a fine herd of Holstein cattle. He has for many falls operated a threshing machine. The subject of this sketch was married to Caroline Bagaasen and to them was born one child, Cora. Several years after the death of his first wife he married Constance Olson, a native of Norway. In politics he is a Republican and has served on the town board of supervisors and has been clerk of school



district 58 for several years. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and is a liberal supporter of the church.

**H. P. Hanson** is one of the well known and prosperous farmers who reside in the township of Bancroft. Born in Denmark, August 12, 1868, he was brought to the United States by his parents, Hans and Stena (Abrahamsen), when he was only 1 year old. His father and mother came to Minnesota and bought land in Riceland, where they were engaged in agricultural pursuits and established their home. They are the parents of five children: Mary, Sophia, H. P., Andrew and Anna, of whom Sophia is now the wife of G. M. Jensen, and resides on the old home farm with her parents. H. P., the subject of this biography, was employed when a boy helping his father with the farm work and going to school. He has spent his entire life up to the present time in this county, with the exception of a year, and has carried on diversified farming. He married Hannah Hanson, whose parents, Christian and Mary Hanson, were pioneer residents of Riceland, and to their marriage nine children have been born: Edwin, Hilda, Alma, Andrew, Arthur, Alton, Helen, Ethel and Lucile, who are all at home. Mr. Hanson owns 120 acres of land which borders on Albert Lea township, and he has about sixty acres plowed. He has made many improvements on his farm and has remodeled the buildings, making them both comfortable and commodious. He carries on general farming and dairying and makes a specialty of raising seed corn and seed grains. He keeps a good herd of Guernsey cows and sells cream to the Albert Lea Creamery, of which he is a stockholder and director. Mr. Hanson has been supervisor in Riceland for three years and he has the honor of being vice-president of the Minnesota Field and Crop Association and treasurer of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. He attends the Danish Lutheran Church and politically is an independent voter.

**O. E. Stadheim** was born in Worth county, Iowa, April 17, 1884, son of E. J. and Carrie (Folie) Stadheim. The father was a native of Norway who came to America in the pioneer days and settled in Iowa. After spending some time there he moved to Bath township where he was married and later he returned to southern Iowa and made his home there until 1893, when he again came to Minnesota settling this time in Bancroft on the farm now owned by Mrs. E. J. Stadheim. He died in 1905, and his widow still resides on the old home farm cared for by her devoted sons. They were the parents of ten children: John, a farmer in Bancroft; Lewis, in the Model Clothing Store at Albert Lea; Bert, Ole, Clara, Hanna and Edwin at home; Lewis, Ole and Lizzie deceased. The family farm comprises 220 acres of land situated in Bancroft township, of which about 100



acres are constantly under cultivation. Mr. Stadheim is occupied in general farming together with dairying, and prefers the Shorthorn cattle for dairy purposes. He raises Poland China and Chester White hogs, which yield him the best market prices. He disposes of his dairy products to the Bancroft Co-Operative Creamery of which he is a stockholder. He votes with the Republican party, and attends the Lutheran Church at Bancroft. The home farm on which Mr. Stadheim now resides was formerly the County Poor Farm, and since it has been owned by the Stadheim family it has been made modern and well improved and one of the most productive farms in the community. Mr. Stadheim's father was a public spirited man who made all he possessed by hard work and ceaseless toil, and when he arrived in America, he was in debt for the suit of clothes which he wore. His life was an example of what may be accomplished by industry combined with frugality.

**O. E. Jensen** was born in Denmark, December 4, 1858, son of H. P. and Dortha Jensen. He came to America with his parents in 1864, and later in the year they settled in Bancroft on what is known as the old Dunbar farm. The mother died in August, 1909, and the father still resides on the home place at the age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of five children: N. P., living in Bancroft; C. P., residing in the city of Albert Lea, and engaged in the milk business; O. E., prosperous farmer; Christena, now Mrs. Jensen, of Albert Lea; James, a farmer of Bancroft. O. E., the subject of the biography, acquired a common school education and has followed general farming since. He owns eighty acres of land and raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is a member of the Prohibitionist party, and he also belongs to the Yeomen Lodge at Ellendale. He was united in marriage with Adaline Peterson, a daughter of P. H. and Anna (Rown) Peterson, in 1887, and they are the parents of seven children: Arthur, Adella, Sadie, Clarence, Elmer, Ernest and Adaline, all of whom are at home. He is a stockholder in the Clarks Grove Co-Operative Creamery, of which his father was one of the originators, having made a trip to Denmark to learn conditions necessary for the establishment of this institution.

**Christ Andersen** was born in Denmark, May 2, 1863, son of Andrew and Margaret (Nelson) Andersen. He grew to manhood in his native land and received his education there, and came to the United States with his parents when he was twenty-four years of age. They settled in Minnesota, purchased some land in the township of Bancroft, and there at the present time Christ, the subject of this sketch, is carrying on general farming. He is one of a family of twelve children, three of whom are



now deceased. He married Mary Beck, who is of Danish parentage, in 1893, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of ten children: Holger, Ella, Norwald, Myrtle, Harry, Lillian, Edna, Earl, Nina and Pearl. Mr. Andersen owns a well kept and productive farm, which comprises 160 acres, and he has about 100 acres under the plow, while the remainder is used for stock raising and dairy purposes. He prefers the Holstein cattle for general dairying, and sells their milk to the Bancroft Co-operative Creamery. Together with his general farming and dairying interests he raises many Poland China hogs for which he receives the best market prices. He has a comfortable house on his farm and has erected a fine substantial barn, well protected by lightning rods and in every manner suited to the needs of the farm stock and produce. He votes the Republican ticket, but has never sought public office. His years of patient industry have made him the prosperous farmer which he is today, and his endeavors to succeed have been amply rewarded.

**Daniel Whelen**, who served his town for six years in the office of constable, is one of the prominent men in that locality. He was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., in 1874, son of Daniel and Mary (Ryan) Whelen, natives of Ireland, who came to America in the pioneer days and settled in Wisconsin, later moving to Bancroft, Minn., where they made their home until death summoned them. Daniel, their son, early began the work which he has followed until the present time. Having completed his education, he at once set to work assisting his father with the farm duties, and in 1886 purchased 100 acres of land, where he carries on general farming at the present time. He devotes a great deal of his time to dairying, and keeps a good herd of cows for this purpose, disposing of the cream to the local creamery, of which he has been a stockholder since its organization. Mr. Whelen has made many improvements on his property, among which are a new barn and a comfortable house, remodeled by him, thus making it one of the good and substantial homes in that vicinity. He was married to Anna Campion in 1887, daughter of the late Cornelius Campion; and this marriage has resulted in five children: Mabel, a Catholic sister; Mary, Cornelius, Leonard and Joseph. Mr. Whelen is an independent voter, whose numerous interests occupy more of his time than he cares to devote to politics. He attends the Catholic Church at Albert Lea, and is a member of its order of Foresters. He has held various school offices at intervals during his life and given his best efforts to the advancement of educational ideas. The daughter Mabel is known in the Church as Sister Mary Edith.

**Maurice J. Harty** is a prosperous farmer residing in Geneva township. His parents, Dennis and Ann (Cus-Kelly) Harty, were



of Irish extraction, and came to this county many years ago, settling in Bath, where Maurice J. was born November 28, 1874. He is one of a family of ten children, of whom two are now deceased. As a boy he attended the district schools in Bath, and later in life spent two years in the High School in Albert Lea. For a time after finishing his education he remained at home and helped his father with the farm work, after which he went to North Dakota and for two years was employed as a cow boy. He returned to the old home in 1898, and two years later purchased the farm on which he now makes his abode. Here, he and his brother, Timothy are engaged in general farming together with stock raising and dairying, being patrons of the Geneva Creamery. He has held many offices of trust in the township, among which are, the director of creamery board, an office which he has held for one year; as assessor of Geneva, he has served four years to the entire satisfaction of its property holders; and that he has been retained as the treasurer of school in district 97, is convincing proof of his ability as such. Catherine Cashman, daughter of John and Catherine (O'Hern) Cashman, married Mr. Harty in 1904, and their home has been gladdened by three children: Patrica, Clayton M., and Vernon J. In politics, Mr. Harty votes independently and belongs to no orders. His fine farm home is one of the best equipped in that community, having an acetylene gas plant which furnishes light and fuel for cooking purposes. His broad acres are under careful supervision which has resulted in a well improved and modern farm.

**Alva Henion**, a prominent citizen of Geneva township was born January 13, 1863, son of Charles and Clarissa Henion. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, and attended the district school near home. For several years after completing his studies, Mr. Henion worked with his father on the farm, and later purchased the property which he owns at the present time. This farm comprises 120 acres, located in sections 8 and 9, and it has been greatly improved and highly developed by its present owner. Mr. Henion has erected good buildings and devoted much time and attention to his farming interests. He raises Durham and Shorthorn cattle and also Norman horses and carries on general diversified farming. His present prosperous condition is due to his own industry and energy. He is a member of the Republican party, and was elected to the state legislature in 1910. He has served in many of the responsible public offices of the township, having been supervisor and chairman for several years. Harriet Hynds, of Geneva, became his wife, October 19, 1884, and this marriage has been blessed with two children, Ray, who assists his father, and Adelie, who also is at home.



The family faith is that of the Universalist Church, of which they are loyal members.

**Charles H. Henion**, one of Freeborn county's early settlers, was born in Albany county, New York, son of Henry and Elizabeth Henion, natives of that state. He received his education in the schools of Albany, and worked for his father on the farm, preparing himself for the occupation of farming, when he should become of age. He left his old home in 1857 and came west, stopping first in Wisconsin, and later coming to Minnesota, where he bought land in Geneva township. This farm of 160 acres, Mr. Henion purchased of the government, and he at once set about improving and developing it. He drew logs from a distance, sawed them and erected a frame house, and in the fall of that same year, went back to New York and was married. He brought his wife to Minnesota, and they settled on the farm which he had purchased. Some years later, he built a new and larger house and erected the necessary outbuildings. He has followed general diversified farming and his ambition and energy have made him successful in his life's work. To himself and wife, five children were born: Ophelia, now Mrs. Montaney, of Geneva; Alva, prosperous farmer of Geneva; Cora, who married Mr. Kuckenbacher, of Geneva; Lillie, deceased; Sabina, now Mrs. Morrison, of North Dakota. The wife and mother passed away in 1879, and Mr. Henion married Mrs. Amelia (Anderson) Cameron, widow of Albert Cameron, June 23, 1896. She was born in Kane county, Illinois, April 4, 1861, daughter of Segal and Emma (Madland) Anderson. Mr. Henion votes with the Republican party.

**Edwin Evenson** is son of Louis and Anna Evenson, who were among the early pioneers of this country, emigrating from Norway to America, where Edwin was born March 17, 1872, in Riceland township. His parents first settled in Wisconsin, but later moved to Minnesota and purchased land in Riceland township, and here they carried on general farming, developing and improving their property. Their son was educated in the district schools, and early in life began assisting his father on the farm. As the father grew older, the son gradually assumed the burdens of the farm work, and in 1893 took entire charge of the old homestead. His father passed away in 1907, and his aged mother makes her home with her son, the subject of this sketch, on the old home place where they now reside. Mr. Evenson has built a fine new house and has a well cared for farm. He raises many hogs for market and home purposes, and has an excellent dairy herd of Holstein cattle. He married Hanna Olson, of Norwegian parentage and birth, in 1895; and to them three children have been born: Marvel, Abbie and Eva. His wife having







MR. AND MRS. ELLEF ANDERSON



died in 1904, Mr. Evenson was married to Anna Mehus, of Iowa, in 1907. He has held many offices of trust in his township, and at present is treasurer of the school board, and previous to this time he served on the town board. Among the many business interests which occupy his time are: Stockholder in the Riceland Creamery and Telephone Company, also in the Farmers' Mutual Live Stock Association. Business interests prevent his engaging actively in politics, but his views agree with those of the Republican party. The teachings of the Lutheran Church are accepted by himself and family, and he is loyal to its precepts.

**Ellef Anderson** (deceased), formerly a resident of Hartland township, was one of the well-known and highly-respected men in the county. He was born in Norway on October 14, 1842, son of Andrew and Kari Anderson, grew to manhood in his native land and there received his education. In 1864 Mr. Anderson came to America and during the fall of that year to Freeborn county, locating in Manchester township. He was employed by various farmers for three years, after which he bought 160 acres in section 27 and went to work on his own responsibility, breaking and developing his land and erecting the necessary buildings. He later added to his farm until he owned 320 acres, and he carried on general diversified farming. Mr. Anderson was elected to serve in many of the public offices in the township, being a member of the town board and clerk of the school board. Owing to careful and honorable business dealings and untiring industry, Mr. Anderson grew more prosperous each year. Landing in this country with but one silver dollar (the same dollar still being in possession of Mrs. Anderson), he set to work with great courage, and at the time of his death he owned real estate in Albert Lea, Minneapolis and also in Superior, Wis., and bequeathed \$500 to the Luther Academy at Albert Lea. Mr. Anderson died November 26, 1898, and he is survived by his widow and four children. He was united in marriage with Nellie Jordahl on October 1, 1865. She was born in Norway, September 17, 1845, daughter of John and Thora (Nels) Jordahl, who came to this country in 1857, locating in Manchester township, where they engaged in farming until their death. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were the parents of ten children, of whom four are now living: Joseph, who lives on the home farm; Turena, the wife of Sivert P. Knutson, of Hartland, with whom the mother now makes her home; Caroline, who married Sivert A. Ford, of Minneapolis, and Nellie, now Mrs. Albert M. Matson, of Hartland township. The family faith is that of the Lutheran Church.

**J. C. Anderson**, Bath township, was born in Denmark, June 21, 1849, and came to America in 1867. He located in Bath,



where he worked out on a farm and later went to Rochester and secured employment there, after which he went into a camp in the woods of Wisconsin bordering on the Black river. Here he was employed for some time, after which he returned to Minnesota and purchased a farm in Bancroft, on which he farmed for thirty-two years. He sold part of this 200-acre farm to the railroad and in 1906 moved to Bath, where he now resides and owns forty acres here which is nearly all under the plow. Mr. Anderson married Sina Jacobson in 1875, who is of Danish birth and parentage. To them six children have been born, three living: Thea, who married James Jensen, of Bath township; Mary, of St. Paul, who married M. A. Larsen, and Martha, at home. Anna died at twenty years; Mary and Christina died in infancy. Mr. Anderson is a self-made man, owing his present comfortable circumstances to years of hard work. His home, situated three miles north from Clarks Grove, is one of the substantial and well-built homes in that community.

**Thor Anderson**, now deceased, was a prominent figure in Manchester township for many years, and in dying left a heritage of honor to his successors. In township affairs he always took an active part, and occupied practically all the town offices within the gift of his fellow voters, doing especially good work as a fair and impartial town assessor. A devout believer in the Christian religion, he did the Freeborn Central Church invaluable service as treasurer for many years. Thor Anderson was born in Norway, May 17, 1823, and in 1852 came to America, locating in Rock county, Wisconsin. In 1856 he came to Freeborn county with the earliest settlers, and pre-empted a quarter section, which he broke and improved, erecting suitable buildings. His success was pronounced from the start, and in time he was the proud possessor of 1,200 acres of land. After a useful and happy life, he died April 15, 1909. While a young man he married Kari Evenson, who died April 18, 1897. To this union was born one child, Ingeborg, November 24, 1848. She came to this country with her parents in 1852, located in Wisconsin, and in 1856 came with them to Freeborn county. She attended school, was reared on a farm and, October 27, 1867, was married to Iver A. Rodsater. They spent a happy life together, reared nine children, and attained an enviable position in the community. Mr. Rodsater died December 27, 1867.

**Axel G. Brundin**, a prominent citizen of Albert Lea, first saw the light of day July 24, 1859, in Sweden, and was brought to the United States at the age of seven by his parents, John G. and Augusta Katherine (Arnglund) Brundin, who spent two years in La Crosse, Wis., after which they moved to Minnesota, living first in Hokah and then in Wells, and in 1874 coming to





MR. AND MRS. THOR ANDERSON





Albert Lea. Axel attended school in the different towns in which his parents lived and completed his education in Albert Lea, from 1873 to 1876 clerked in a general store at Alden, and then engaged in the meat business. In 1877 he went into partnership with his brother Charles and established a market in Albert Lea. This partnership continued until January 1, 1909, when it was dissolved. Each of the brothers now conducts a market. The firm of Brundin Bros., packers, was continued until 1908, when it was incorporated as the Brundin Packing Company and later became the Albert Lea Packing Company, under which name it is known at the present time. Mr. Brundin is now a heavy stockholder in this concern, and was at one time its president. In 1885 Mr. Brundin married Ella M. Ruble, a daughter of John Ruble, of Pickerel Lake, and they are the parents of Stacia and Beth. Mr. Brundin is affiliated with the prominent social organizations of Albert Lea, being a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Royal Arcanum, the Odd Fellows and the Elks. He has served as city treasurer for four terms and has also served in the council for three terms, and has been a member of the county board for the past ten years. These responsible positions, which he has so satisfactorily occupied, prove his ability and trustworthiness, and he can be truly spoken of as one of Albert Lea's leading and public-spirited citizens.

**Charles R. Brundin**, who for thirty-three years has been engaged in carrying on a meat business in the city of Albert Lea, was born September 18, 1861, in Sweden, son of John G. and Augusta Brundin, and came to the United States with his parents in 1867. They located first in La Crosse, Wis., but later came to Hokah, thence to Wells, Minn., and in 1874 settled in Albert Lea, and there Charles attended school and grew to manhood. After completing his education, Mr. Brundin engaged in a meat market, and since 1877 he has been interested in this particular line of business. In partnership with his brother, A. G. Brundin, he established the market known as Brundin Bros., and in 1909 he bought out his brother's interest, having organized the previous year the Brundin Packing Company, which is now known as the Albert Lea Packing Company. In 1884 Rose Geissler became his wife, and their marriage was blessed with the birth of four children: George H., Glenn C., John G. and Marvel. Mrs. Rose Geissler Brundin passed away in 1904 and some time later Mr. Brundin married Jenny Batty, widow of John Batty, a former resident of this county. In political convictions Mr. Brundin is a member of the Taft Republican party, and he belongs to the many fraternal orders of Albert Lea, being a Mason, in which order he has advanced from the Blue Lodge to the Shrine. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and of



the A. O. U. W. He has been of service to the city of which he has for so many years been an esteemed resident by serving as alderman from the First ward for a period of two years, but his many business interests have prevented further seeking of public office. He owns a fine modern residence, situated at 701 Fountain street, and also owns the place of business at 239 Main street, Albert Lea, together with farms and other real estate. His direct business methods, together with his fairness and honesty, have made him both popular and respected by all with whom he has had business dealings, and by all his fellow men.

**John G. Brundin**, a pioneer resident of Albert Lea and one of that city's highly respected men, was born in Sweden on October 28, 1830. He spent his boyhood in the land of his birth and there acquired his education. On June 19, 1855, Augusta C. Arnglaund became his wife, and to them have been born six children: John W. (deceased); Axel G.; Charles R.; Emma, now Mrs. William Flindt; Abbie, the wife of H. F. Hovland; Charlotte Augusta, at home with her father. In 1867 Mr. Brundin decided to leave his old home in Sweden and seek his fortune in the United States. His first home in this country was in La Crosse, Wis., where he was employed by the Davidson Steamboat Company for a period of two years, after which he came to Minnesota and made his residence in Hokah, Houston county. Here he secured employment with the Southern Minnesota, which had shops and terminals in that city. His work in this company's shops was making patterns, and to him should be given credit for the interior design of the first passenger coach, which was built and used on this road. When these shops later moved to Wells Mr. Brundin was still retained as one of their valued employees, and he remained as such until 1874, when he resigned and moved to Albert Lea, where he established the first foundry and machine shop located in that city. This business was conducted under the name of Brundin & Paulson until 1880, when it was succeeded by J. G. Brundin, afterwards known as Brundin & Son. In 1895 John G. Brundin disposed of his interests and retired from active life. His faithful and devoted helpmeet passed away December 6, 1893. Mr. Brundin resides at 919 Madison street, his home being cared for by his daughter Gusta. He upholds the principles advanced by the Republican party and attends the Lutheran Church, of which he is an esteemed member. In the past he has served Albert Lea by acting as alderman from the Second ward, and he has ever been vitally interested in all movements which have tended toward the development and improvement of the town and county in which he resides.







MR. AND MRS. BENNETT ASLESON



**Bennett Asleson**, pioneer and successful man of affairs, was born in Norway, August 20, 1833, and came to America in 1854. After living three years in Wisconsin, he came to Freeborn county in 1857, located on section 22, Manchester township, entered 160 acres of land, broke and improved it, and in time increased his holdings until he owned 450 acres. It is interesting to note that he built his house from brick manufactured by himself. Mr. Asleson was the first assessor of Manchester township, has been on the school board some thirty years, and town treasurer a similar period. In 1881 he served in the state legislature. Aside from his farming interests he owns the Newton Hotel, at Albert Lea, and is also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Albert Lea, the Albert Lea State Bank, the Manchester State Bank and the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea, in which latter institution he is a director as well. The subject of this sketch was married June 24, 1865, at Albert Lea, by Augustus Armstrong, to Gunhild Petersen, who was born in Norway, May 28, 1841, came to America in 1849, lived two years in Wisconsin, then located in Minneshiek county, Iowa, and in 1865 came to Freeborn county. Mr. and Mrs. Asleson had five children. Ashley, Turena and Turena are dead. Augustus operates the home farm, and Tilda Amanda lives at home.

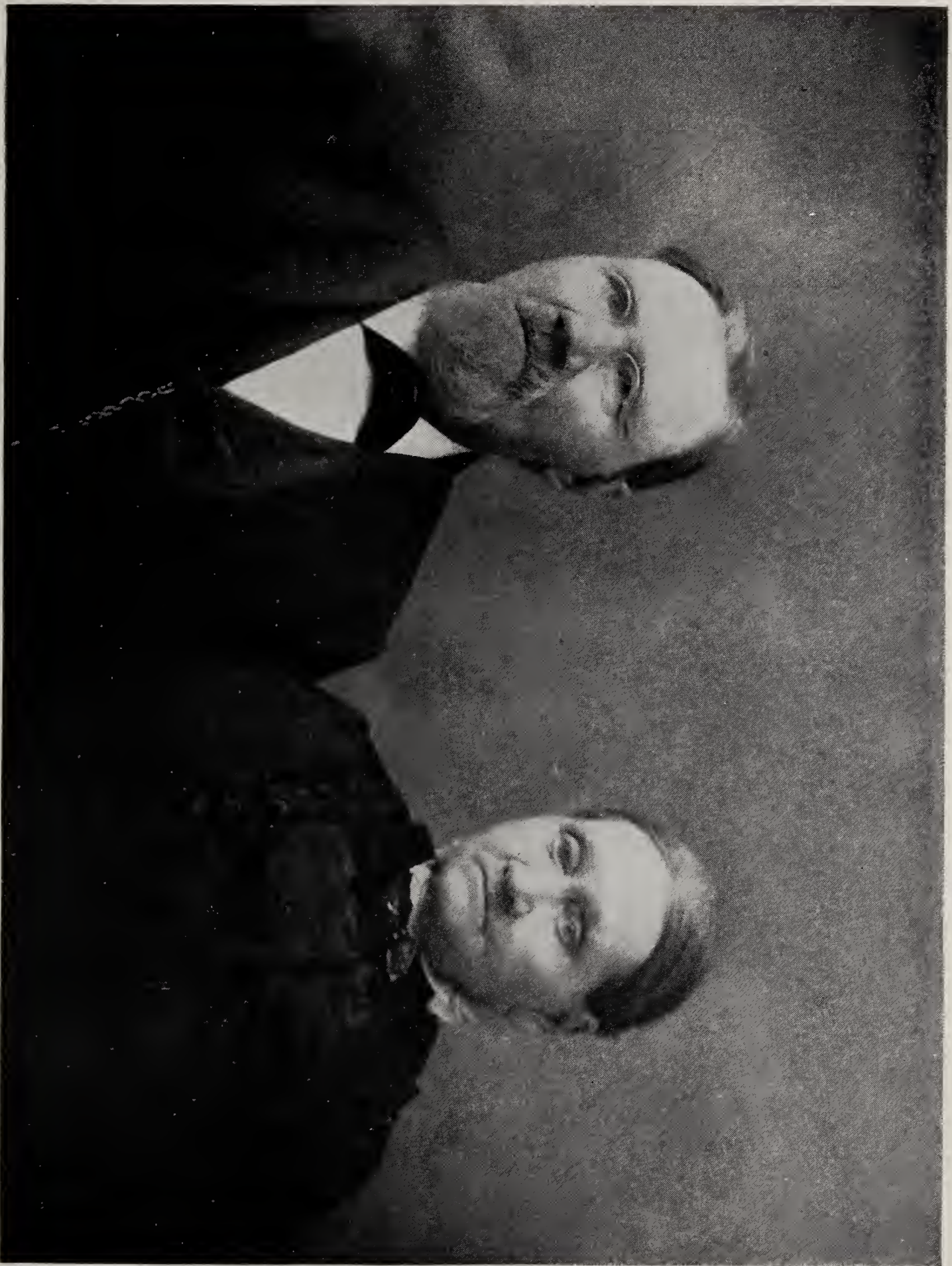
**Albert J. Berglund** was born in Albert Lea township, December 25, 1869, son of Johan and Anna Maria Berglund. In the district school No. 54 the subject of this biography acquired his education and spent the early years of his life on the home farm. After completing his studies Mr. Berglund engaged in general diversified farming, working on the home farm with his father until he was 24 years of age, when he purchased a farm comprising 140 acres, which were located in Albert Lea township, section 22. Here Mr. Berglund developed the land, erected a good house and the necessary outbuildings, and for several years carried on agricultural pursuits. In 1904 he rented his property and moved to the city of Albert Lea, where he had purchased an interest in the Peterson Hardware Company, and became secretary of the firm. He remained with this concern until September 22, 1908, when the company was reorganized as the Albert Lea Hardware Company, of which Mr. Berglund became vice-president. In January, 1911, Mr. Berglund disposed of his interests in this business, after which he accepted a position with the American Gas Machine Company, of Albert Lea, in the capacity of traveling salesman, remaining with this concern for three months, after which he secured his present position as salesman for the United Flour Mills Company. Politically, the subject of this biography is an independent voter, and while he has ever been actively interested in all movements which have tended



toward the improvement and uplifting of conditions in his town and county, he has never sought public office. He is a respected member of the Baptist Church of Albert Lea, and fraternally he belongs to the Masonic Lodge, A. F. & A. M., the K. O. T. M., A. O. U. W., R. N. A. and the I. O. O. F. Mr. Berglund was united in matrimony, May 10, 1894, with Mary E. Gustaveson, born in Sweden February 21, 1874, daughter of G. and Bengta (Larson) Gustaveson. Mr. and Mrs. Berglund are the parents of three children, of whom Gladys was born May 21, 1895; Wenona died when two years of age, and Bertha Wenona was born July 28, 1900.

**Johan Berglund**, or Johan Emerson as was his boyhood name, was born in Torp Socken, Medelpad, Sweden, November 29, 1834. Upon entering military service he took the name Johan Berglund. It seems that all who entered military service took a new name. Anna Marie Persdotter was born at the same place in Sweden, November 15, 1831. She became the wife of Johan Berglund in 1855. Shortly after their marriage, through Bible study, they could no longer believe in the tenets of the State church. For this they were persecuted and life was made a hardship. Because also of poverty in that cold northland both had seen days when they could not eat all they wanted, even of bread made from the bark of trees. Anxious for their growing family, they sought a country that promised more of freedom and of bread. In the year 1868, therefore, they set out for "Isanti postoffice, Isanti county, Minnesota, U. S. A., North America," for such was their baggage labeled. They arrived in August at their destination but seem to have been dissatisfied with the sandy soil of that county and only stayed seven weeks. Late in September the same year they came to Freeborn county and located on the farm three miles southeast of Albert Lea, where he lived, raised his large family and died, and where Mrs. Berglund still lives with her youngest son. They came to Albert Lea one year before the railroad. The price of that first 160 was \$1,100, but he had only \$75; and a stove and cow were actual necessities and each cost \$40. But a neighbor loaned him \$100 to pay down on the farm, which had seven acres broken and a cellar in a side hill lined with rough untrimmed oak boards, covered with a shanty of boards, making an up and downstairs, and in this, with two families part of the time, they had their home for nearly three years. Mr. Berglund was handy with tools and the \$100 borrowed was paid in building houses at 75 cents a day. He put up all his own buildings as fast as he could afford the lumber. His first two winters were spent in the pine woods of northern Minnesota. Coming from a forest country and with keen eye and strong arm, his own grove yielded sills and joists and rafters,





MR. AND MRS. JOHAN BERGLUND





so that his first frame house was all his own make, with rough lumber on the outside and indeed that was all there was, no paper, no siding, no plastering, the first year or two. He grubbed most all his land by his own hand and hired for the breaking. At times he would have to pay as high as 22 per cent on borrowed money. But he paid for that first 160 and bought another at double the price of the first, and bought another and another and more, until before letting it to his children he had owned some 800 acres. Almost every dollar was by hard work taken out of the soil to pay for his lands. His business was farming and he attended to his business and succeeded. He was a hard worker and his wife stood nobly by him. Nine children were born to them, five in Sweden and four on the old homestead. Peter, with his family, lives near the old homestead. Bertha E. is Mrs. James Olson, of the same township. Mary was the wife of Rev. Iver Larson and died three months before her father. Magnus and family live in Isanti county, this state. Erick and family live in Albert Lea township. Albert and family live in the city of Albert Lea. Alfred and family live on the old homestead. Emma died in infancy and another Emma is Mrs. Oscar Lundstrom, in Albert Lea city. Their children's children number forty-eight and great-grandchildren three. Of these forty-four are living, so that their direct descendants today are fifty-one, and nearly all live in Freeborn county. In politics he was an independent voter. He was road overseer, assessor and member of town boards at different times. In later years his conviction was strong against the liquor traffic and he cast his lot with Prohibition. Some years before leaving Sweden the Berglunds joined the Baptist faith. Not long after their arrival in Albert Lea religious services were started in their home. The first organized Scandinavian Baptist work in Albert Lea was a Sunday-school in their home. When the Danish Baptist Church was started they became members. With his own team, aided by a son, Johan, he hauled the first load of lumber for that Danish church. The tower of that same building rests on rocks from his farm. He gave of time, labor, money and was one of the most regular attendants, walking the three miles from his home. When, in 1883, the Albert Lea Swedish Baptist Church was started, they became its equally strong supporters, giving of time, labor and interest. Mr. Berglund was a member of this church when he died, his wife being there still. All of the children followed in their parents' footsteps and are members of the Baptist churches, nearly all in the First Baptist Church of Albert Lea. He gave two of his children to the gospel ministry. He was the means of starting the first Bible wagon among his own countrymen. In the early days people around him worked Sunday and weekday alike; soon, however, a neigh-

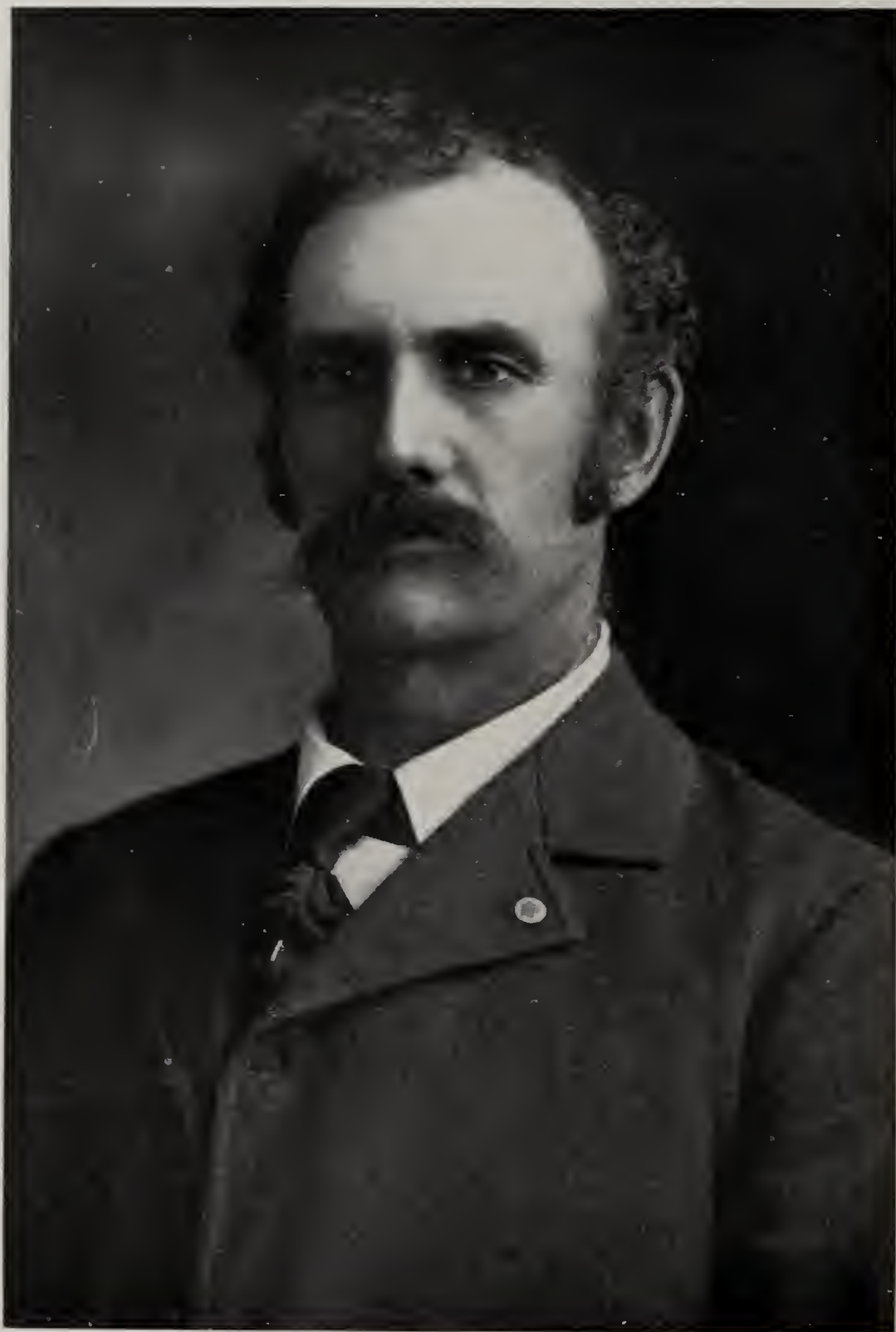


bor told him that through his example they had decided that nothing was gained by breaking the laws of the universe. Johan Berglund died February 22, 1904. He left some land, some money and many children, but like that man on whose birthday he died; his greatest heritage was the example of his noble life.—Contributed by Rev. M. Berglund.

**Frank A. Blackmer, M. D.**, now deceased, exerted an influence on the community which will never be forgotten. He was energetic, kindly, ambitious and generous, and one of those men who may truly be said to have been a friend of everyone. He was a devoted husband and father and a loyal comrade. He was a friend of all young men, and no deserving case of any sort was ever refused his sympathy and aid. All in all his was a useful life, and the city of Albert Lea is the better for his having lived in it day by day during his active career. His death, July 11, 1900, was the cause of universal mourning, and during his funeral every business house in the city was closed as a tribute of what he had meant to the people of this county. Frank A. Blackmer was a native of Ohio, born at Amherst, Loraine county, January 16, 1847, son of Franklin and Minerva (Wilkins) Blackmer, the pioneers. Frank A. Blackmer attended public school in Ohio and afterwards in Albert Lea. He was but ten years old when his parents removed here, and he aided his father in driving the ox team from McGregor, then the western end of the railroad, across the prairie to the new home. Two years later, at the age of twelve, while working in the field one day, he came to the conclusion that he would strike out for himself, and hanging his scythe in a tree he came to town to get work. From that time forward he depended entirely on his own efforts, both for a livelihood and for his education, which he was determined to have. He did odd jobs and soon accepted a position with the local newspaper, the "Southern Minnesota Star," edited by Swinford and Grey, where he soon learned to set type. Shortly after Dr. Burnham needed someone to publish his paper at the rival town of Itasca, two miles distant, and Isaac Botsford and Frank Blackmer were employed. Itasca, however, lost the county seat, and hauling the Itasca printing office and old hand press, which they had taken for wages, across the prairie by ox team to Blue Earth City, founded the "Blue Earth Post," which is still one of the largest and most influential journals in the state. It was about this time—1862—that an Indian outbreak was threatened, and Botsford and Blackmer took an active part in the raising of a company of volunteers. Frank Blackmer, at the age of fifteen, became orderly sergeant of Company C, Fifth Minnesota volunteer infantry, February 14, 1862. The company







S. A. BEACH



was first stationed at Ripley Fort, Minnesota, near Brainerd, but during the summer it was ordered to Yellow Medicine, where it was present at the payment of the Indians. August 22 it participated in a battle of Fort Ridgley, near New Elm, where Sergeant Blackmer received a severe gunshot wound in the face, jaw and tongue. In consequence of thus being disabled he received a discharge from the service in October of the same year. The ball was removed from his face by Dr. A. A. Ames, of Minneapolis, then assistant surgeon of the Seventh regiment, and for some time he remained in the hospitals suffering from the wound and the fever. The long scar resulting from the wound in the tongue was the cause of much trouble to him during all his after life, as at times he suffered much pain and discomfort before his death. After being discharged he went to Chicago and worked on the morning papers during the winter as compositor. In 1863, at the age of sixteen, he entered the academic department of Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, sawing wood, setting type and doing other work to pay tuition and board. He had already decided to study medicine, and while at Oberlin spent some time in the office of Dr. Bruce. After a short course at Oberlin he became a student at the medical school at Cleveland, Ohio, now known as the Cleveland Medical College. He graduated from this institution in February, 1868, and after receiving the necessary hospital practice returned to Albert Lea, entered into partnership with Dr. Wedge and commenced at once upon a professional career, which lasted thirty-two years. October 15, 1872, Dr. Blackmer was united in marriage to Franc E. Wedge, of Fond du Lac, Wis. The following spring they removed to Jackson, Minn., where the doctor had purchased considerable farm land. But the grasshoppers came, and at the end of the first year they returned to Albert Lea, where they continued to reside. Dr. Blackmer was survived by a wife, a son, Ray C. Blackmer, and a daughter, Mrs. Anna Gillrup, a sister, Mrs. A. C. Wedge, and four brothers, Loren and Heman living and Henry and Bradford deceased.

**S. A. Beach**, a prosperous and well-known farmer residing in Manchester township, was born in Ashford, Cattaraugus county, New York, November 18, 1857. His parents were Horace M. and Sarah (Hyde) Beach, both of New York. The father came to Minnesota and brought his family in 1858, settling in Manchester township, on section 18. Here he was occupied in farming interests until the Civil War broke out, when he enlisted in Company C, Fifth Minnesota volunteer infantry. He was shot and mortally wounded in the battle of Nashville and later died at New Albany Hospital, Indiana. After his death the family returned to New York, where they remained until 1880 and then came back to



Minnesota. S. A. purchased the old homestead, buying out the heirs, and now owns a farm of 194 acres in section 18, where he carries on diversified farming, and where he has erected some fine buildings. He married Mary C. Schoen, and to them seven children have been born: John A., Amy, Myrtle, Horace, Lee R. and Albert D. Mary E. has passed away. Mr. Beach is an independent voter, has held the office of town constable for several years, and has also been a member of the school board for twenty years. He is in every respect a public-spirited citizen. Mr. Beach is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Alden and a stockholder in the Freeborn creamery.

**Adelbert H. Bender**, cashier of the First State Bank at Glenville, Minn., is one of the prominent business men in that locality. He was born in Alpha, Fayette county, Iowa, August 27, 1872, son of Henry A. and Juliette (Stone) Bender. Beginning his education in the district school near his old home and later attending Decorah Institute, he was prepared to enter business college and subsequently completed a course in the Valder Business College at Decorah. His first position after leaving school was as bookkeeper in the bank at Waucoma, in which capacity he was employed for five years. At the end of this period he resigned from his position in the bank and was a solicitor for a fire insurance company, and he represented this firm for four years. In 1899 he came to Glenville and organized the bank there, which later was made the State Bank. He was married in 1895 to Viola B. Clark, whose parents, Andrew and Jane (Orr) Clark, were natives of Scotland, and after coming to America first made their home in Canada and later in Iowa, where the father died in 1909 and the mother a year later. To Mr. and Mrs. Bender a daughter has been born—Gladys. Mr. Bender is a Republican of the progressive type, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Church, of which he is a member and to the support of which he is a liberal contributor. His good education, together with his years of business experience, have well fitted him for the position of trust and responsibility which he now occupies, and his business methods have won the admiration and respect of the people in the community and county. David Bender, grandfather of Adelbert H. Bender, was a native of Indiana, who came to Minnesota and located near Spring Valley, where he remained for about three years, after which he went to Nebraska and later to the state of Washington, where he passed the remainder of his days. Henry A., the son, moved to Iowa and married Juliette Stone, who came west from New York. When President Lincoln issued the call for men to defend the Union, Mr. Bender enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Iowa volunteer infantry and went to the front. He was wounded during one of



the battles and honorably discharged. He returned to his home in Iowa and for many years was engaged in farming. About 1903, he moved into the town of Fayette, Iowa, where he and his wife are living at the present time.

**Horatio D. Brown**, now deceased, was well known in Albert Lea and Freeborn county, and he had a large acquaintance throughout Minnesota and the Northwest. He came to Freeborn county as a young man of twenty-one and kept abreast and in the lead of its progress during all the years of growth and development. For a generation he was a most important factor in the commercial affairs in both city and county, and one of the most prominent leaders in the political, social, educational and religious life of the community. As a youthful pioneer he was industrious and progressive, with faith in the future. As a soldier he was brave and courageous and a prudent and kind officer. As a public official he was upright and competent and a wise legislator. As a banker he was the safe custodian of the property of others. As a church member and college trustee he was an earnest Christian and a friend and patron of higher education. As a citizen he was patriotic, loyal and public-spirited, always ready to aid in any project to advance the interests of the community of which he was a member. Mr. Brown possessed a kindly, sympathetic disposition. He was careful in business but humane, gave liberally to charity and donated much time and money to the advancement of the cause of education and religion. All who knew him esteemed him. His death removed one of the few remaining men to whose courage and industry was due the transformation of the wilderness of a generation ago into the garden spot of today. Horatio D. Brown was born in the town of Fabius, Onondaga county, New York, April 15, 1835. He was a son of Abner Brown, a native of Hartford, Conn., whose father immigrated to New York and settled in Onondaga county in the latter part of the eighteenth century, when the country was a great wilderness. He served in the War of 1812 against the mother country, and some of his ancestors were soldiers in the war of the Revolution. The mother of Horatio was Lovina Cadwell and was also of old New England stock. Abner Brown, his father, was a farmer and reared a large family of children. Horatio D. Brown was raised on the home farm, attended the common school and later prepared for college at the DeRuyter and Cazenovia seminaries, and in 1852 entered Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1856. He came west the same year and spent about one year teaching in Illinois and Iowa. In 1856, at the age of twenty-one, he removed to born county, six miles southeast of Albert Lea. There were but Minnesota and located a claim in the town of Hayward, Free-



few families living in the county at that time. He had brought with him a compass and was soon engaged in surveying. In 1857 he was elected the first surveyor of Freeborn county and moved to Albert Lea. He was soon after appointed deputy clerk of the district court, and in 1861, he was elected to that office and held it for ten years. He was married, December 19, 1861, to Mary L. Peck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Peck, of Albert Lea. Mr. Brown enlisted March 9, 1862, in Company C, Fifth Minnesota volunteer infantry. He was mustered in as second lieutenant, August 31, 1862. His company was ordered south the December following and joined the regiment at La Grange, Tenn. He was engaged with his regiment, under the command of General Grant, in the action at Jackson, Miss., May 14, 1863; at Vicksburg, May 22; at Mechanicsburg, Miss., June 3; at Richmond, La., June 15, and participated in the siege at Vicksburg from May 19 until July 4, 1863, when the rebel forces capitulated. His regiment was included in the contingent sent from General Grant's command to the assistance of General Banks in his Red River expedition, and was in the engagement at De Russy, La., March 4, 1864; at Henderson, April 9; at Coulerville, La., April 23; at Bayou Roberts, May 8; Mensura, May 15; Yellow Bayou, May 18, 1864. In August, 1864, Mr. Brown was transferred to the Eleventh Minnesota volunteer infantry as adjutant, and was with the regiment during the service in and around Nashville, Tenn. He was mustered out of service at St. Paul in July, 1865, after three years of active service, and resumed his duties as clerk of the district court. In 1871 Mr. Brown resigned the office of clerk of court and organized the private bank of H. D. Brown, and later, with R. R. P. Hibbs, the banking house of H. D. Brown & Co. This firm continued in business until March, 1892, when the Albert Lea National Bank was incorporated and Mr. Brown was elected president. This position he occupied up to within a month of his death. In 1871 Mr. Brown was elected to the state senate and served one term. He was always a Republican in politics. He also served the city of Albert Lea as mayor and was active and prominent in all matters pertaining to the welfare and building up of Albert Lea and Freeborn county. He was president of the Minnesota Bankers' Association in 1899. For years, and up to the time of his death, he was a member and trustee of the Presbyterian church of Albert Lea and a trustee and treasurer of Albert Lea College, earnestly serving both by personal effort, influence and liberal contributions in a material way. He died August 3, 1901. Mrs. Brown was Mary L. Peck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Peck, of Albert Lea. Mr. and Mrs. Peck were both born near Rochester, N. Y., but came in early life to Ohio, where Mr. Peck helped to



build two of the pioneer railroads of the state. With his wife and daughter he came to Freeborn county in 1858, thus suffering with others the privations and hardships of pioneer life. They cheerfully gave of their substance to those who had come in before them and had been overtaken by misfortune. Mrs. Peck died in 1889 at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. Peck lived to be eighty-six years old, dying in 1892.

**B. E. Bottolfson** has a well cared for farm about four miles from the city of Albert Lea. This farm comprises eighty acres of land and it is the old Bottolfson homestead, where for many long and eventful years Andrew and Irene (Berg) Bottolfson lived and reared their family of five children: Bottol, now deceased; Iver A., B. E., Caroline and Andrew. These parents came to America from Norway and settled in Bancroft township in 1855, where the father died in 1884. B. E., the subject of this sketch, was born November 7, 1864, and spent the early years of his boyhood in attending the district school and doing such general farm work as is required of the farmers' sons. After leaving school he devoted all his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, as his well-improved home and farm bear witness. He keeps a herd of dairy cattle and sells cream to the Albert Lea Creamery. He also raises graded hogs and stock for market purposes. As treasurer of the school district No. 58 and treasurer of the Manchester Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, which office he has held for ten years, Mr. Bottolfson has demonstrated beyond a doubt that he is well fitted to occupy any office of trust and responsibility to which he may be elected. Emma Narveson became his wife in 1895 and their home has been brightened by the birth of four children: Elder, Irving, Ella and Lumen. Politically, Mr. Bottolfson affiliates with the Republican party, and his genial manner and sound judgment have placed him in the high regard of the residents of Bancroft township.

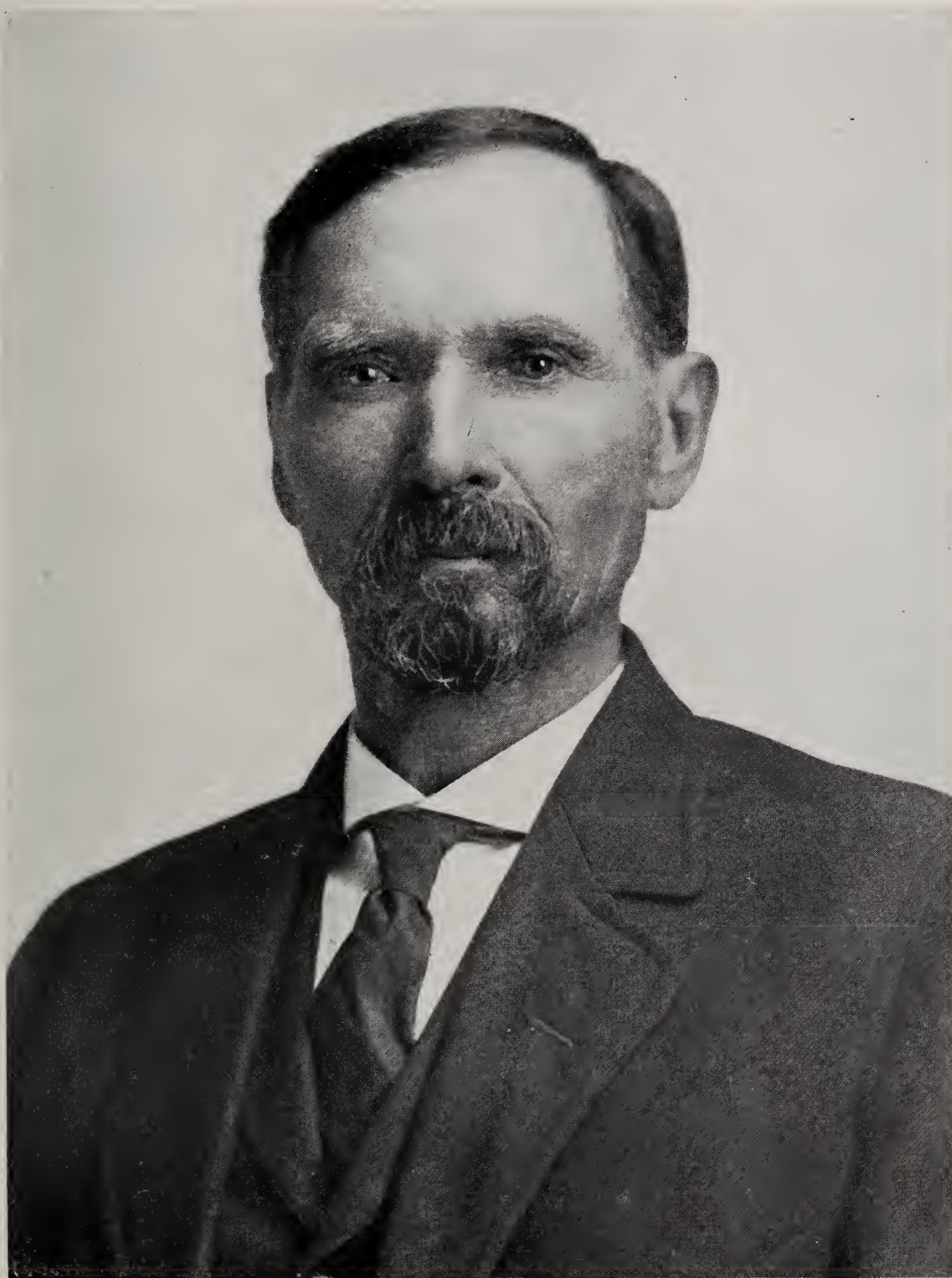
**C. U. Christenson** was born in Denmark, January 15, 1852, son of C. U. and Johanna Christenson. His father was a mason by trade, but also carried on the work of a small farm which he owned. He died in Denmark in 1868 and the mother died in 1902. The subject of this biography received his education in Denmark, where he did service in the army and later worked on farms until he was twenty-four years of age. In 1876 he came to the United States and located in Geneva township, Freeborn county, where he worked out several years and saved his earnings. With his savings he purchased 132 acres in section 10, Riceland township, to which original purchase he has added until he now owns 446 acres. He follows general and dairy farming, keeps a herd of grade short-horn cattle and raises Poland-China hogs, as well as poultry for occasional market. In 1882 he married Carry M.



Christenson, a native of Denmark, daughter of John Christenson, one of the early settlers of Freeborn county. This union has been blessed with twelve children, ten of whom are living: John is a farmer in Riceland, Laura lives in California, Tina lives in Washington, Julius, Johanna, Elmer, Rosa, Pearl and Clarence are at home. Mr. Christenson is a respected member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican and has held many offices, among which are supervisor of the town, chairman of the town fifteen years, member of the school board twenty-two years, vice-president of Riceland creamery, director of the Farmers' Union and many minor offices. He is a member of the Danish Brotherhood and owns stock in the elevator at Hayward. Mr. Christenson is a self-made man and from his hard work and ability to make friends he has made himself successful and has done this with no injury to those with whom he has had dealings.

**L. O. Braaten**, a leading farmer who has been a resident of this county for many years, was born in Norway, July 13, 1845, son of Lars and Guro (Larson) Braaten, the former of whom died before the subject of this sketch came to the United States. At the age of ten years he and his widowed mother came to America and located at St. Ansgar, Iowa. Here they resided until 1865 and at that time learning of the opportunities offered in Minnesota, they moved to Hayward township and bought eighty acres of railroad land and here established their home. As the years passed they toiled and prospered, and to this farm added until he has 175 acres, which are now under a high state of cultivation. The trees which surround Mr. Braaten's home today were planted by him and the large and attractive house was built by him as an evidence of his success and prosperity. For many years he followed diversified farming, keeping a fine herd of short-horn cattle for general dairy purposes and also raising many hogs to meet the increasing demand of the markets, preferring Poland-China and Duroc-Jerseys. Eliza Nelson, born in Norway, became the wife of Mr. Braaten in January, 1868, and to them were born three children: Elsie, Lauritz and Thorvold. The two latter are deceased. In 1872 Eliza (Nelson) Braaten died and later in life Bertha Marie Bjornrud was married to Mr. Braaten, in January, 1874, and this union has resulted in six children: Emma M., Hannah G., Lizzie M., Lydia, Ludwig and Wilhelm. Emma is now Mrs. Louis Narverud, of Albert Lea, and Elsie is now Mrs. Gust Gilbert, of Rio, Wis. Mr. Braaten has the confidence of his townsmen and he has served in the township's interests in many ways, having acted as town treasurer, director of the school board and in minor offices a number of years. He is a director of the Manchester Insurance Company and an originator of the local creamery. As the vice-president of





L. O. BRAATEN





the Farmers' State Bank, of Hayward, and one of its directors, his good judgment and common sense are valued highly by those associated with him. He contributes to the support of the Lutheran Church, of which he is a member, and in politics his ideas are Republican. Mr. Braaten has just purchased one of the finest residences in Hayward village, where he and his good wife and family are living and enjoying a well-deserved and hard-earned rest.

**W. H. Coon**, who for the past thirty-five years has been a resident of Carlston township, was born in Trempeleau county, Illinois, January 27, 1842. When he was but seven months old his father passed away and his mother took him and his elder brother back to New York, where they remained a year and then returned to Illinois. Later the family moved to Washington county, Wisconsin, and when the call came for brave men to defend the Union, William, the subject of this biography, enlisted in Company I, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He saw active service in many of the bloody battles of that war and was honorably discharged in 1865. He then returned to Wisconsin and married Sarah Jane Bogue, and they went to Nebraska, where he was engaged in farming and where they made their home for five years. In 1871 they moved back to Wisconsin, and after remaining there for a few years came to Minnesota in 1878 and settled in Carlston township. Mr. Coon owns a fine farm, consisting of 160 acres of fertile land, and he has built a comfortable house and good barns, and believes in modern farming methods. He carries on general farming, together with dairying, and is also interested in stock raising. His wife entered into rest September 13, 1908, and is survived by her husband and four children: Willard, of North Dakota, Edna J., Milo and Frederich. Mr. Coon is an industrious and energetic man, who is interested in any enterprise which tends toward the betterment of his township and the county in which he resides. He is a Republican in politics and served on the town and school boards many years. He is a member of the Universalist Church.

**Harold Dahlen**, the county superintendent of schools in Freeborn county, is a native of Norway, born in that country April 8, 1871, son of Torger and Martha (Grinager) Dahlen, who came to the United States in 1872, locating in Freeborn county. The father farmed for a time, dying soon after he came here. The mother later married Henry King and lives in Albert Lea township. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the common schools of this county. Upon leaving school he taught for two years, and then took an advance course at the Mankato Normal School. Completing this course he taught in the rural schools and in Freeborn village for several years. In 1908 he



was elected county superintendent of schools and has served the county in this capacity ever since. Mr. Dahlen is a Republican and attends the English Lutheran Church. He makes his home in Albert Lea. Under his supervision are 133 schools, of which forty are special state aid schools, and three graded schools. He also has five semi-graded schools. Mr. Dahlen is a man eminently fitted for his position. Of a genial disposition, which wins the friendship of scholars, parents and teachers, he is nevertheless firm when necessary, and his tact and good judgment are important factors in the high standard maintained by Freeborn county schools. He is also a deep student, well versed in all the latest developments in pedagogical science.

**R. E. Dewey**, the genial postmaster of Hayward, is the son of J. Harriet (Eddy) Dewey, natives of Illinois. J. Dewey was a blacksmith by trade, which work he followed in Creston, Ill., until 1895. He then came to Hayward village, where he engaged in business for two years, and later returned to Illinois, locating in De Kalb, where he still resides. Mrs. Dewey died in 1878. R. E. Dewey was born September 6, 1877, in Malta, Ill. When six months old his mother died and he went to the home of his grandparents at Creston, Ill. When seven years old he went to Carleton, Neb., with his grandmother and graduated from the Carleton high school in 1896. One year after graduating he came to Hayward, where he taught school seven years. He later was employed in a general store in this village and still holds this position. In 1904 he was appointed postmaster and continues to serve the community in this capacity. Mr. Dewey is a Republican and that he is an active one is evidenced by his appointment to his present high office. He has served as constable the past four years. Mr. Dewey's enthusiasm and agreeable manner make him a good officer in the postmaster's position.

**Fred Crisman**, who for many years has occupied prominent offices in the township in which he makes his home, came to London from Indiana in 1881. He was born in Ohio, October 12, 1849, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Baughman) Crisman. In 1850 his father moved the family to Indiana, where he farmed for thirty-one years. Fred lived at home until twenty years of age, after which he worked out for three years. He then rented some land and began farming and later purchased a farm in Pleasant township, Porter county, Indiana, which he sold in 1881 and came to Minnesota, locating in London township, this county. He bought 120 acres in section 11 and eighty acres in section 10. When Mr. Crisman purchased this land it was a barren waste, covered with stubble. He broke and improved the land, set out the shade and ornamental trees which so beautify the place, and also planted a fine orchard of sixty-five trees, which now bear







C. H. DERBY



abundant crops of winter apples, this orchard being the pride of Mr. Crisman and his family. He followed general farming until ten years ago, when he rented most of his land and engaged in stock raising. He raises pure-bred Poland-China hogs and Norman horses and keeps for his own use only driving horses. On December 5, 1872, Loretta Davison, a daughter of R. P. Davison, became his wife and their marriage has resulted in the following children: Ida, who married H. S. Chandler; Elizabeth, the wife of W. J. Dunn, and Cecil, who is at home with her parents. Mr. Crisman votes with the Republican party and has been supervisor of London for a period of ten years. He has also been on the school board for a similar length of time and at present he is the president of the London State Bank and president of the Enterprise Co-operative Creamery of London, serving with efficiency in all offices to which he has been elected.

**Charles H. Derby**, a venerable resident of Freeborn village was born in the state of New York, October 7, 1832, son of John F. and Sarah A. (Haight) Derby. In 1854 he came west, remaining for a short time in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, and then returning east, where he spent the following three years in Virginia. He again came west in 1857 and was employed in St. Paul for a year, after which he went to Wisconsin, and in 1864 he came to the township of Freeborn. Here he purchased a farm in section 23 and engaged in diversified farming. He was married on March 24, 1854, to Harriet E. St. John, daughter of M. B. and Permelia St. John, and this union was blessed by the birth of three children: Clara, the wife of Charles Leonard; Frank, who married Emma Kruger, and Margery, at home. In 1901 Mr. Derby gave up his active work on the farm and moved into the village of Freeborn, employing help to care for his valuable farm of 240 acres. His years of hard work and self-denial have enabled him to enjoy many of the comforts and luxuries of life and his good sense and keen judgment have won him the esteem of his fellow townsmen, who have elected him to various town offices.

**E. E. Dunn**, the genial cashier of the Myrtle Farmers' First State Bank, was born in Shell Rock township, April 29, 1882, son of Frank and Sarah (Eckert) Dunn. Frank Dunn is a native of Iowa and his wife a native of Minnesota. About 1873 they located on land which they bought in Shell Rock and there followed general farming. The mother died in 1897. The father continues with his farming, but has many other business interests. E. E. Dunn was educated in the country schools of Shell Rock and later attended the school at Nora Springs, Iowa. After completing his studies he entered the employ of the First National Bank at Thompson, Iowa, as stenographer and bookkeeper. He remained there two years and then remained at home one year,



after which he went to North Dakota, where he managed a lumber yard and subsequently became assistant cashier of the First State Bank of Eckman, in that state. He occupied this position one year and then went to Drake, N. D., as assistant cashier in the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, but wishing to have greater opportunities for his ability in banking he came to Myrtle and organized the bank of which he is now cashier. On December 2, 1908, he married Florence M. Lang, a stepdaughter of G. P. Meadowcroft, of London township. In politics he is a Republican and has had several offices of local importance, among which are treasurer of Myrtle Creamery and town treasurer, as well as minor offices. He is a member of the Masonic order and also of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Dunn is building up an excellent sentiment toward the institution which he is directing. The electric burglar alarm, which has lately been installed, is one evidence of the desire of those who manage the affairs of the bank to meet the needs of the people, and it appears that this method is appealing to the public and increasing the business of the local bank.

**Franz L. Davis**, one of the many prosperous farmers who reside in London township, has one of the finest and most productive farms of the county, on which he has erected a substantial and commodious dwelling house, good barns and outbuildings, which are supplied with all the equipment of a model and modern farm home. He was born in Ohio, September 28, 1861, the son of Emery and Mary Ann Davis, who went to Iowa in 1862, where they remained about six months, after which, in the spring of 1863, in the month of March, they homesteaded 160 acres of land in section 30, township of London, Minnesota. They purchased a house in Iowa, which they moved eight miles to their homestead by means of twenty-one yoke of oxen and a span of horses. Franz L., the son, lived in this house until four years ago, when he erected his present house from lumber sawed from trees which his father had planted when he first took the farm. Mr. Davis owns 560 acres of land and carries on general farming, together with stock raising, making a specialty of Red Poll cattle and pure-bred Percheron horses. He also has sixty Poland-China hogs. Mr. Davis was married, June 15, 1888, to Esther E. Shaw, who was born at Worth, Iowa, and their home has been gladdened by the following children: Clyde, Loren Lee, Jason, Roland, who died at fourteen years of age, Leroy, Mabel Ann, Alice and Berton Franz, the baby, all living at home. Mr. Davis is a man of sterling character, faithful in all that he undertakes and highly esteemed throughout the community. He is a member of the Republican party, has held the offices of school treasurer for many years, and served as town treasurer for about ten years. He is vice-presi-



dent and stockholder in the Deer Creek Creamery, also a stockholder in the Lyle Telephone Company.

**Peter Clausen**, successful florist of Albert Lea, has done much toward the beautification of this vicinity, and his plant occupies a conspicuous position on the beautiful shores of Fountain lake. He was born in Denmark, on the Island of Langeland, April 5, 1850, and was there reared, coming to America in 1869. After following farming a while in Rochester, this state, he went to Grand Meadow, and worked as a carpenter and cabinetmaker three years. In the winter of 1873 he followed a similar line of work in Austin, but in the following spring he returned to Grand Meadow and with a partner engaged in the furniture business a short time. Afterward he again took up his trade, but in the year 1876 started in the furniture business in Grand Meadow for himself. In the fall of 1878 he came to Albert Lea and embarked in the furniture business, following this in connection with the undertaking and funeral embalming profession until 1884. In that year he established his present business on a small scale. In 1897 his son, G. A. Clausen, was admitted as a partner. In addition to conducting his extensive plant, Mr. Clausen has laid out Clausen's first and second additions to the city of Albert Lea, on the north shore of Fountain lake, both additions being excellent situations for residences, and already well built up. Mr. Clausen is a member of the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association. He is also a member of the city park board of Albert Lea. As a church worker he has attained considerable prominence. He has lectured, traveled and preached in the interests of the Danish Lutheran Church body, and has been a member of the board of trustees. He is also a deacon and president of the board of trustees of Trinity Danish Lutheran Church, Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was married in April, 1873, at Grand Meadow, to Mary Christensen, who died in December, 1895, leaving three children: G. A. is his father's partner, Emma is the wife of Walter Heegerd, of Albert Lea, and Clara is a public school teacher. In August, 1897, Mr. Clausen married Mary Jorgensen, and this union has resulted in seven children: Agnes, Gerhard, Arthur, Richard, Margaret, Harold and Esther.

**G. Alfred Clausen**, who is associated with his father, Peter Clausen, in the business of floriculture on the north shore of Fountain lake, is a typical son of Minnesota, possessing keen business judgment, combined with energy and industry. He was born in Grand Meadow, this state, February 22, 1874, son of Peter and Mary (Christiansen) Clausen, and with them came to Albert Lea in 1878. He has always been associated with his father and in 1897 was taken into the concern as a partner. Mr. Clausen has not cared to mingle in politics, but at the election



of 1911 he consented to run for the office of alderman from the Third ward and was elected by a good majority. Being of a sociable nature he has allied himself with the Danish Brotherhood, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the United Commercial Travelers. The subject of this sketch was married, August 12, 1896, to Minnie D. Olson, who was born August 24, 1874. To this union have been born six children: Alice, Walter, Verna, Clayton, Harriet and Helen. Mr. Clausen is a great believer in outdoor life for himself and family, and has become a popular member of the Albert Lea Automobile Club and the Albert Lea Gun Club.

**George H. Emmons**, postmaster, merchant and leading citizen of Emmons, is a native of Wisconsin, born March 28, 1855, son of Henry G. and Christina (Larson) Emmons, the pioneers. As a boy he attended the public schools, and later received a commercial education. At the age of twenty-five he and a brother embarked in the mercantile business, opening a store on section 32, Nunda township, in September, 1880. At that time there was considerable doubt as to whether the trading center of that locality was to be at the present site of Emmons or at Norman, Iowa. For a time the circumstances seemed to favor Norman, the railroad having located the station at that point, and December 6, 1881, the store in section 32 was discontinued, the Emmons brothers; George H. and Lewis H., opening a similar establishment at Norman, Iowa. Later it appeared that the principal village was to be at the present site of Emmons. and consequently the business was moved back to the present village site about 1886. Later the partnership was dissolved. In 1898 George H. Emmons erected the large building which houses the mercantile establishment, the postoffice being in a connecting building, which he purchased later. The store which is now owned by the Emmons Mercantile Company, of which George H. is one of the principal officers, is a modern one in every way, carries a large stock of goods and does a constantly increasing business, its success being due to the shrewd buying and honest selling for which Mr. Emmons is noted. In 1890 Mr. Emmons succeeded in having a postoffice established, the old state line postoffice, which formerly served this part of the county, having been moved to Norman, Iowa, in November, 1879. Since 1890, with the exception of a very few years, Mr. Emmons has served as postmaster. A Republican in politics, he has been honored with many offices, including those of president of the village and member of the village council. He is also a popular member of the Sons of Norway. The subject of this sketch is one of the men who have made the village of Emmons possible, and his hard work, coupled with his loyal support of home enterprises, has done much toward







MR. AND MRS. DAVID COLVIN



its growth. He has always encouraged the location of new business houses in Emmons, and is an earnest worker for the betterment of the public schools, laboring in all ways to perfect the standing and advance the prosperity of the community. George H. Emmons was married in 1878 to Esther Robinson, and this union has been blessed with nine children: Henrietta, Evelena, Alma, Grace, Carl, Arthur, Victoria, Myrtle and Clara. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

**David Colvin**, a territorial pioneer, was born in Hamlin, Oswego county, New York, April 29, 1831. His parents were Heman and Mary (Tiff) Colvin, natives of Rutland, Vt., who had come to New York state in the early days and moved to Ohio in 1835. Here they made their home until 1847, when they decided to go to Chicago, where they later passed away, the wife and mother dying in 1854 and the father the following year. David, the subject of this biography, acquired his education in the public schools of Ohio and Illinois, and after leaving his studies his first position in the business world was with a creamery company, where he was employed for two years. He then worked as a jockey for a short time, after which he learned the meat cutters' trade, which he followed for some time. In 1858, in company with his wife, Mr. Colvin came to Minnesota and settled in Pickerel Lake township, where from the month of July until November he lived in the body of a wagon. He then purchased a corn crib, which he fitted up as well as he could to serve as a house, and in this he lived for nearly a year, after which he moved to Carlston, where he bought a farm, comprising 160 acres of land. On his farm Mr. Colvin erected a house of logs, in which he resided until the fall of 1862. When the call for men to fight for the preservation of the Union came Mr. Colvin responded and enlisted in December, 1862, in Company H, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and served until the following December, 1863. He was then discharged at Fort Snelling on account of an injury received from a horse, and was sent to St. Louis to act as shipping clerk for the Government. Here for fifteen months he was employed, after which he returned to his home in Carlston township and again resumed his occupation of farming. He soon disposed of 160 acres of his land and purchased 120 acres of school land in the same township. This land he broke and cultivated and later added to it another 120 acres. He built a frame house and the necessary outbuildings and for many years carried on his general farming, aided by his estimable wife. In 1885 they sold the home farm and moved into the city of Albert Lea, where they purchased their present home, which is located at 340 West Williams street, and here they are enjoying a well-earned retired life amid many comforts which their years of toil and industry



have made possible. For a period of time after coming to Albert Lea Mr. Colvin dealt in horses and kept a boarding and feed stable, which he eventually disposed of. He is a staunch supporter of the principles advanced by the Republican party and he attends divine worship at the Methodist church. He is a member of the Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., and charter member of the W. R. C., No. 93, in which organization his wife is color bearer. Mr. Colvin was married March 7, 1853, at Willow Springs, Ill., to Hulda S. Russell, who was born at Albany, N. H., August 16, 1835. Her parents were Ira and Betsy B. (Dearing) Russell, natives of New Hampshire, who moved to Chicago in 1852, where her mother passed away October 1 of that same year. Her father died at Walnut Hill, Minn., October 22, 1889. It is interesting to note among the many privations and hardships which this worthy couple endured in their pioneer days in this state that at one time they subsisted for three weeks and four days on coarse bran, which was prepared by Mrs. Colvin in as palatable a manner as possible, and which left a lifelong flavor with Mr. Colvin.

**Elmore E. Eggleston**, a respected citizen of Geneva township, was born in Ohio, May 2, 1835, son of Eliab and Esther (Chapman) Eggleston. The subject of this sketch acquired his education in the public schools of Galena, Ill., and came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856. He located in the township where he resides at the present time and purchased Government land, which he broke, developed and made productive. For several years, with his father, he carried on general farming, and later he bought 160 acres in section 8. He has always followed general and diversified farming and his life has been one of industry and endurance. He affiliates with the Republican party and has held various offices in the township, having served as constable and in other offices. He is one of the stockholders in the Geneva Creamery. October 22, 1861, Mr. Eggleston married Catherine Gross, who was born in New York, February 20, 1839, and came to Minnesota in 1858. To them have been born two children: Burdette A., of Geneva, and Eliab J., of Elmhurst, Cal. The family attend the Methodist church, and contribute to its support.

**Eliab Eggleston** was one of the first settlers in this county, having come here in August, 1856, and locating in Geneva township. He was born in Connecticut and married Esther Chapman, of New York. Some time later they moved to Ohio and from there to Evansville, Ind., where they remained for some time, after which they went to Galena, Ill., where Mr. Eggleston was employed for fourteen years in the lead mines. In 1856 Mr. Eggleston brought his family to Minnesota, where they endured all the privations incident to the life of the early settlers in this







ALFRED EMERY



county. He died in Geneva township, where his wife also passed away.

**Alfred Emery** was born in Vermont, May 11, 1849 the son of Daniel and Susan Emery, both now deceased. When a very young boy he came to Minnesota with his widowed mother and settled in section 21, town of Nunda. Here the family lived five years, until the Indian outrages in the North and West, when they returned to Wisconsin in company with many of their Minnesota neighbors. For four years they lived in Waukesha and Dane counties, Wisconsin, but in 1866 they once more came to their old home in Nunda township. Here the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, attending the schools of the locality and living the life of the pioneer boy. He later took care of his grandmother and farmed the eighty-acre homestead. He here made many improvements, cleared land, built dwellings, barns, sheds and began what is now one of the excellent farms of the locality. On December 31, 1878, he married Edith Wilcox, and to them were born six children, four of whom are now deceased, as follows: Susan Hattie, born October 1, 1879; Bertha, January 14, 1882; Edrick A., February 17, 1885; Alfred Leroy, July 7, 1886. Daniel Oliver and Henry Alfred are still living in Nunda. Mrs. Emery died December 16, 1895. In the early part of 1911 Mr. Emery gave up active work on his farm and has now taken up his residence in Emmons, where he owns property. Mr. Emery is a Republican in politics and has been town chairman eight years, clerk of school district 43 over thirty years and assessor many years. He was president of the Union creamery several years, and is now one of the directors of the Emmons lumber yards and vice-president of the Emmons National Bank. The subject of this sketch is highly respected in his community as a man who, in spite of innumerable difficulties, has made himself felt as a friend and neighbor as well as a conservative official in political and business circles.

**Henry Eberhardt**, a preacher of the German Methodist Episcopal faith, was born in Germany and came to America with his parents at the age of ten years. At the age of nineteen he entered the ministry and preached three years in a German Methodist church in Wisconsin. He then married Barbara Kopp, who, like her husband, was brought to Washington county, Wisconsin, as a child. The young couple moved to Des Moines county, Iowa, where Rev. Eberhardt preached for five years. In 1865 he returned to Wisconsin, but in 1867, his health having failed him, he came to Minnesota and settled in section 23, Pickerel Lake township. After a time his health improved, and he was called to the pastorate at Hokah, Minn., where he ministered to the German Methodists three years. His health again failing, he returned



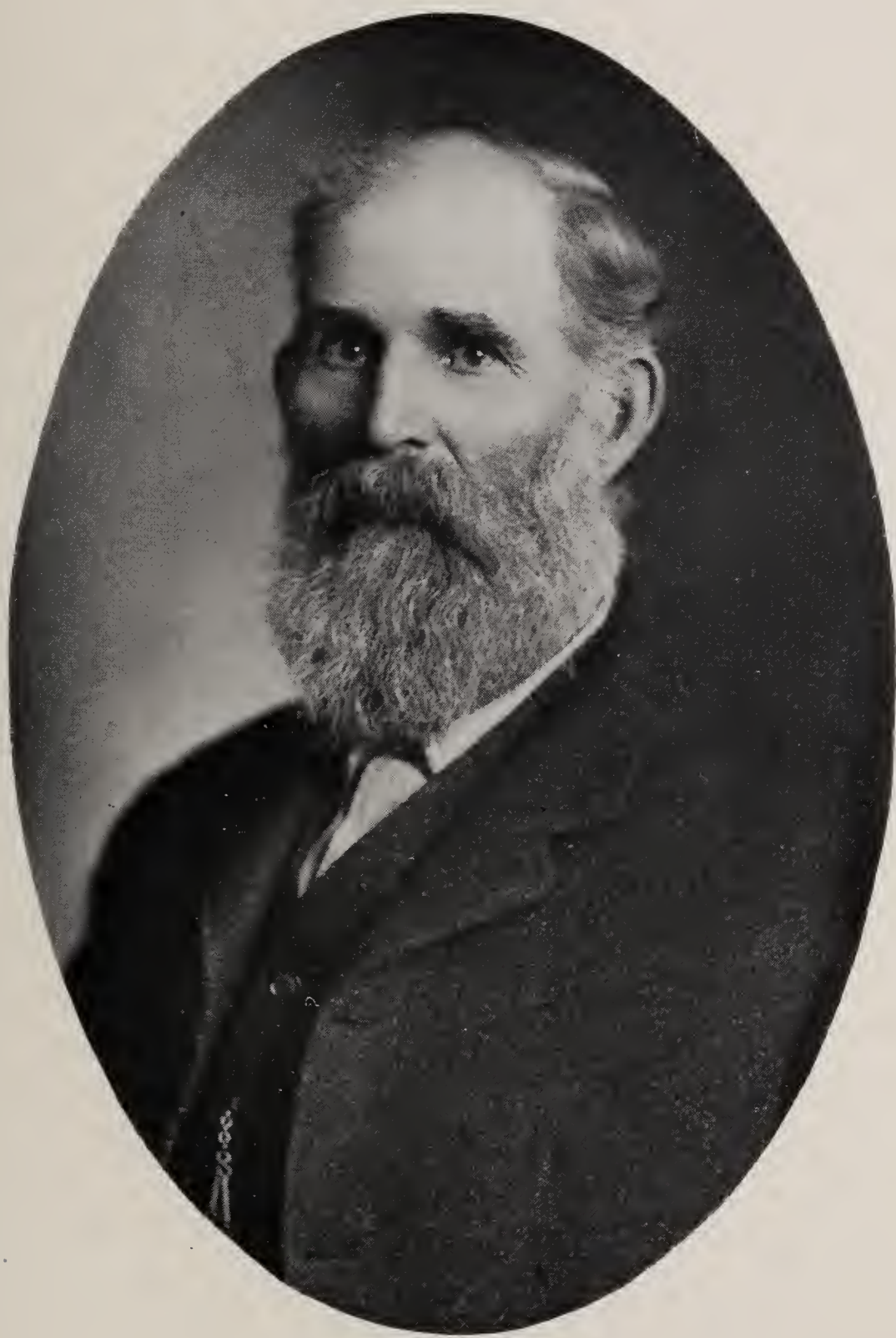
to Freeborn county, and died August 27, 1875, at the age of thirty-seven, leaving five children: Katie is the wife of John W. Kaemer, of Todd county, Minnesota; Edward H. lives in Pickerel Lake township; Elizabeth married George Scott, of Albert Lea; Amelia S. is the wife of Henry J. Hoffert, of St. Paul Park, president of the St. Paul Park College; and Alfred V., who died at eleven years.

**William Siebel** was a native of Germany and there married Julia Meyer. They came to America and lived six years, then went back to the old country. In 1874 they again came to America and engaged in farming in Faribault county. William Siebel now lives in Wells, this state, and his wife died September 30, 1901. In their family were nine children: Henry, deceased; Mary, wife of Fred Miller, of Wells; Martha, wife of Henry Peters, of Mansfield; Augusta, wife of Charles Lischefski, of Faribault county; Selma, wife of Charles Schneider; Lydia, wife of Edward H. Eberhardt; William, deceased; Ellen and Albert.

**Edward H. Eberhardt**, a successful farmer of Pickerel Lake township, was born in Alamakee county, Iowa, July 7, 1864, son of Rev. Henry and Barbara (Kopp) Eberhardt. He received his education in the public schools and engaged in farming with his mother. In 1887 he purchased 120 acres of the home farm and engaged in farming for himself. He now owns 240 acres of good land, which he has improved and developed. One of the marks of progress on the place is the fine modern home erected in 1907. Mr. Eberhardt is an independent voter and has served for some time as clerk of school district No. 102. He is an active worker in the German Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Eberhardt was married November 27, 1888, to Lydia Siebel, born in Germany, October 17, 1865, daughter of William and Julia (Meyer) Siebel. Five children have blessed this union, the three living being: Alfred, William and Mildred.

**William Freeman**, a highly esteemed resident of Glenville, was born in Sutton, Northamptonshire, England, August 1, 1832, son of John Freeman, the pioneer. In 1853 the subject of this sketch came to America and settled in Rutland county, Vermont, where he remained until March, 1856, at which time he went to Illinois. For one month he worked at farming in Illinois, after which he drove an ox team to Iowa and from there he came to Minnesota. He arrived in this county May 15, 1856, and two days later located in Freeman township, where he pre-empted 160 acres in section 15. He broke the land and prepared it for crops, but that same summer returned to Illinois, where he remained until the following year, and in September, 1857, again returned to Freeborn county and settled on his farm. He added 160 acres to his possessions, making 320 acres, all in the township of Free-



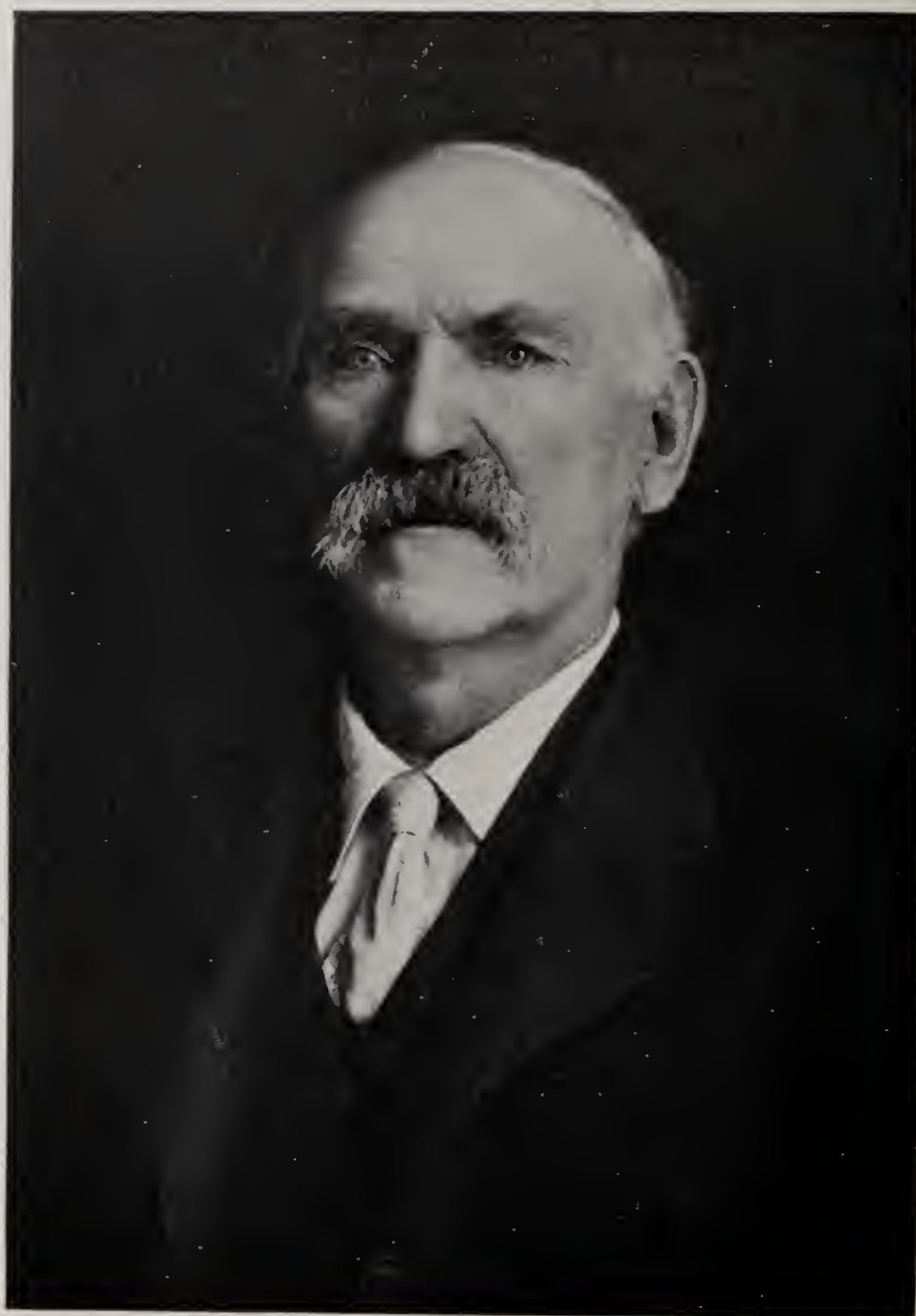


WILLIAM FREEMAN









JENS ERICKSON



man. He erected a log house, in which for many years he resided, and in this house Freeman township was organized and Mr. Freeman elected as the first town clerk. The house is yet standing. In 1908 Mr. Freeman moved into the village of Glenville, where he lives a retired life. He was one of the first settlers in Freeman township and for his family it was named. When a boy but thirteen years of age he was cast on his own resources, and for some time was employed by Henry Follett, a brother of Sir John Follett. Mr. Freeman belongs to all the Masonic bodies represented in Albert Lea, and also to the Osman Temple, Mystic Shriners, at St. Paul. Being seventy-eight years old at the time of taking the thirty-second degree, he is the oldest man in the Northwest to be thus distinguished. In June, 1910, he received the thirty-third degree.

**Henry G. Emmons**, now deceased, was one of the earliest pioneers, and his name will ever be held in honored remembrance. He was born in Norway, October 16, 1828, and came to America in 1850, locating in Rock county, Wisconsin. There he engaged in farming and railroading. In 1854 he married Christina Larson and two years later they came to Minnesota, driving the distance with a yoke of oxen. Arriving in Nunda township they took up a claim in section 32, afterward proving up and acquiring the homestead at the government price of \$1.25 an acre. For the first two months they lived in their wagon. Then a cabin was completed, which did service until 1861, when a better structure was built. On this original homestead the village of Emmons was platted, that hamlet being started and fostered largely through the efforts of the Emmons family. Mr. Emmons prospered with the years and acquired vast land holdings. He held various school and township offices, was justice of peace for fourteen years, postmaster of the old State Line postoffice for fifteen years, member of the board of county commissioners for six years, chairman of that body four years and an influential member of the lower house of the Minnesota legislature in 1877-1878. In the Emmons family were eight children. Henry G. Emmons passed away October 2, 1909, and his wife in February, 1910.

**Jens Erickson**, a successful farmer of Riceland township, owns 360 acres in sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 and here conducts diversified farming on a portion of his property, leasing the greater part of it. He is the son of Eric and Ingerborg (Jenson) Anderson, who were born and reared in Norway, where the subject of this sketch was born, January 10, 1839. As a boy he attended the schools of his native land and later in life learned the moulder's trade, at which he worked until 1862. He then came to America, first locating in Dane county, where he lived for seventeen years, and was married to Carrie Sallasan in 1882. To them one child has



been born, Emma Elsenä. Mr. Erickson has the confidence and respect of his townspeople and has served on the town board for some time, also held the offices of president and vice-president of the Riceland creamery, of which he is a stockholder and one of the organizers. He worships at the Lutheran church, favors the views of the Democratic party, and is a fine example of a self-made man and substantial citizen.

**John Frydenlund**, a successful and well liked farmer residing in Hayward township, was born in Norway March 20, 1860. When he was eighteen years old he came to America with his mother, who was then a widow, and they settled in Hayward where John, the son, worked out on a farm for sixteen years. In 1900 he moved to the farm which he now owns and was married to Nora Alm, daughter of Mat and Julia Alm, natives of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Frydenlund have been born seven children: Marion, Alice, Frank, Vernon, May, Clara and Bertha, who are all at home. Mr. Frydenlund has 160 acres of land in his farm and engages in general and dairy farming. He keeps a dairy herd of good graded stock and disposes of the milk and cream to the Hayward creamery of which he is a stockholder. He raises hogs for market and realizes a good profit from this occupation. All the improvements on his farm were made by him and he has ever been a hard working and energetic man, who has made his success by constant application to his work. When he landed in America he was in debt for his passage to the amount of \$60.00, and now he is one of the prosperous farmers in the township. He has been supervisor of the town in the past and is an independent voter.

**A. Frydenlund**, an energetic and progressive farmer of Hayward township, came to this country from Norway in 1867 and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming for several years. He received his early education in Norway and worked for his parents, Andrew and Martha (Quand) Frydenlund, before seeking his fortune in this country. In 1870 he pushed farther west to Freeborn county and bought 160 acres of good farm land in section 17 Hayward township. Here he has a well cared for farm, on which he has erected some fine buildings and made extensive improvements. He follows diversified farming, and prefers the Shorthorn cattle for his dairy business. Mr. Frydenlund was married to Cecelia Peterson, of Norwegian parentage in 1869, and to this union six children have been born: Albert, Oscar, John, Martha, Petia and Annie Sophia. In the affairs of his community, Mr. Frydenlund has always taken a prominent part. He has served as treasurer of town board for the past sixteen years and has been member of the school board for many years. As one of the directors on the creamery board





A. FRYDENLUND









MR. AND MRS. ROBERT FREEMAN



he has proven his efficiency and at the present time he is president of the Hayward Creamery Association. As a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank of Hayward, also of the Citizens' Bank of Albert Lea, combined with his numerous other business interests he has but little time to devote to politics, but has held many offices in the Lutheran church, of which he is a member. The prosperity which he now enjoys is the result of his own untiring efforts, and he prides himself on the fact that he is "self made."

**Robert Freeman**, retired farmer now living in Glenville, was born in Northampton, England, March 18, 1840, son of John Freeman, the pioneer, from whose family the township of Freeman is named. Robert attended the English public schools and at fourteen years of age came to America and located near Castleton, Rutland county, Vermont. Three years later, in 1857, he moved to Illinois, and lived a year in Kaneville, Kane county. In 1858 he came to Minnesota and settled in Freeman township, where he pre-empted his present farm in sections 11 and 14. In 1862 he returned to Illinois, and worked hard until he saved \$500.00. He was injured, however, while setting fence posts, by getting a splinter in his eye. For this affliction he was under the care of J. P. Walker in Chicago, for four months, using up all the \$500.00 which he had saved. In 1874 he married Louisa Nelson, who was born in Sweden, Nov. 16, 1847, and came to America with her parents at six years of age. This union was blessed with three children: Dr. J. P. Freeman, Glenville; Mrs. Edna B. Mariner, of Glenville, and Mrs. Alice D. Flaskrud, of Armstrong, Minn. In 1875, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman returned from Illinois, and located on the farm Mr. Freeman had previously pre-empted in Freeman township, this county. On this farm they toiled and labored together, breaking and improving the land, erecting good buildings, and increasing their holdings until they owned 240 acres of excellent land. In 1907 they retired from farming life, and moved to Glenville, where they purchased a home, in which they are now spending their retiring days in peace and rest. On Aug. 2, 1899, the large and commodious barn on the Freeman farm, was struck by lightning, and destroyed, the loss being \$1,500, in addition to 150 tons of hay and eleven head of cattle. Mr. Freeman is a Democrat in politics, and has served on the town and school boards. He also helped to organize the Freeman creamery, of which he was president for several years and in which he still holds stock.

**James A. Robson**, now deceased, was a prominent figure in the early life of Freeborn county, and his untimely decease is still mourned by the early settlers. He was born in New York state, May 23, 1826, son of English parents. In 1857, with J. F. Jones, he came to Freeborn county and laid out the townsite of Geneva.

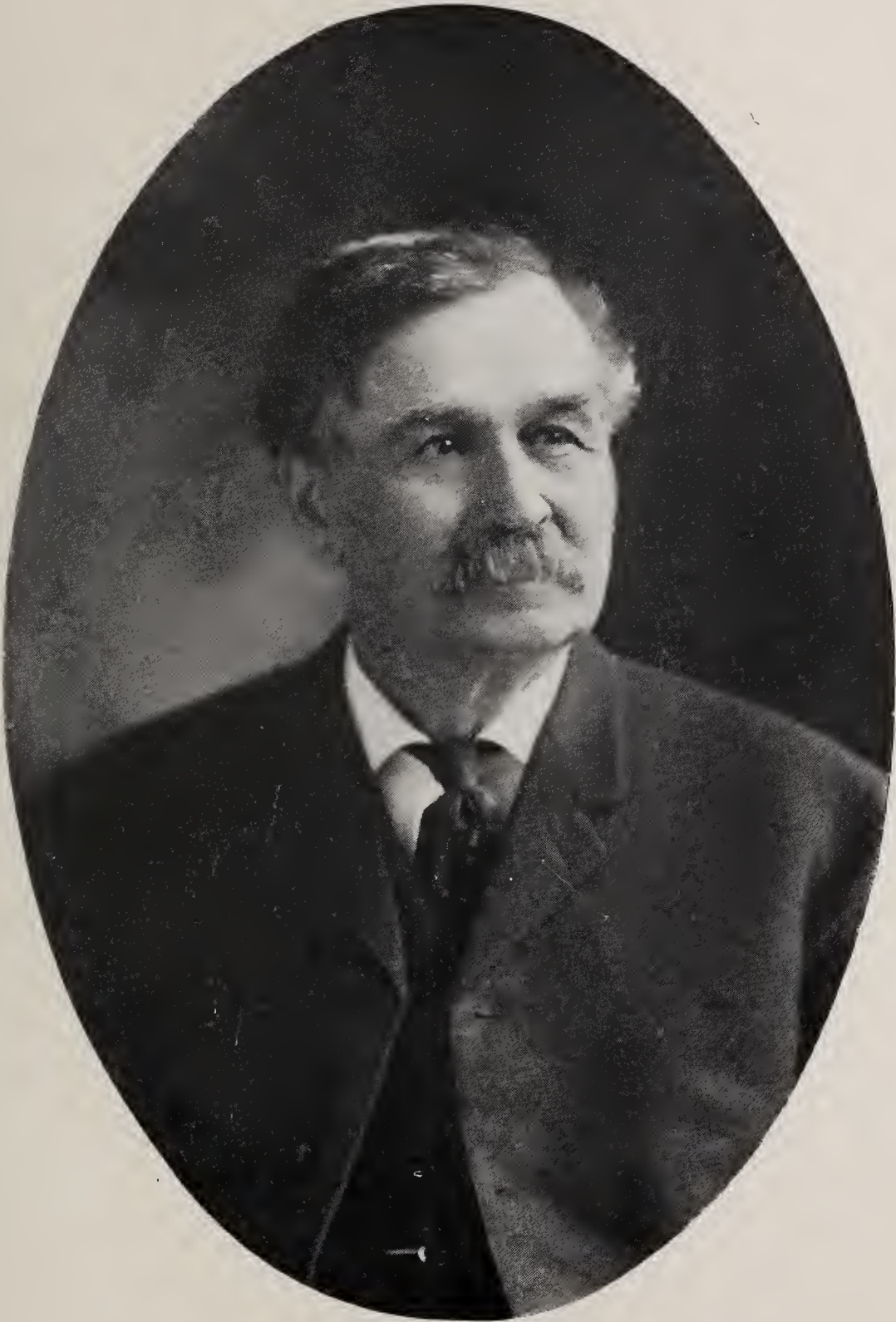


In 1860 he was elected second sheriff of the county, and served until 1862. The trial and execution of Henry Kreigler took place during his term of office, and Kreigler was for a time confined in the Webber House, in Albert Lea, of which Mr. Robson became owner in 1860. In 1862, Mr. Robson raised Co. E, 10th Minn. Vol. Inf. and Sept. 8, 1862, was mustered in as captain of that company. In November of that year he was killed by an accidental discharge of a gun, this being Freeborn county's first sacrifice to the Civil War. In honor of his life and character, the old soldiers have named their G. A. R. post at Albert Lea the James A. Robson Post. Mr. Robson was married in early life to Martha Partridge, daughter of Harvey and Laura (Maxson) Partridge. To this union four children were born: Elsie M., John T., James Harvey and George, the latter of whom died when a small boy.

**Harvey Partridge** was born in Connecticut, and lived successively in New York state and Wisconsin, before coming to Geneva village in 1864. His wife, whose maiden name was Laura Maxson died at Geneva, after which Mr. Partridge went to live with his son in Albert Lea where he died.

**John L. Gibbs**, former lieutenant governor of the state of Minnesota, and for a long time one of the most prominent men in southern Minnesota, died in Owatonna, Nov. 28, 1908. He was born in Bradford county, Penn., May 3, 1838. He received an academic education, and was graduated from Ann Arbor law school in 1861. Coming to Minnesota, and being admitted to the bar, he was elected county attorney of Freeborn county in 1862. Two years later, in 1864, he was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, being re-elected in 1865, 1876, 1877, 1885 and 1895, being speaker of the house in 1877 and 1885 and a prominent candidate for the position in 1895. In 1887 he was appointed railroad and warehouse commissioner for the state of Minnesota by Gov. A. R. McGill and was reappointed by Gov. William R. Merriam. Mr. Gibbs was chairman of a number of important political conventions. He was prominently mentioned for the governorship in a number of campaigns, and, in 1896, he was elected lieutenant governor under Governor David M. Clough. Mr. Gibbs had a strong personal following in the rural districts of the state, due in a large degree to his love for farm life, and his determination to raise its standard of living. When not busy with his official duties he resided on a farm in Geneva, in which town he held many local offices. He was among the first to see the importance of the dairy interests, to the new state, and was always in demand as a speaker on this and other topics at all farmers' gatherings. He was also long prominent in Masonic circles. He married Martha Partridge Robson, who

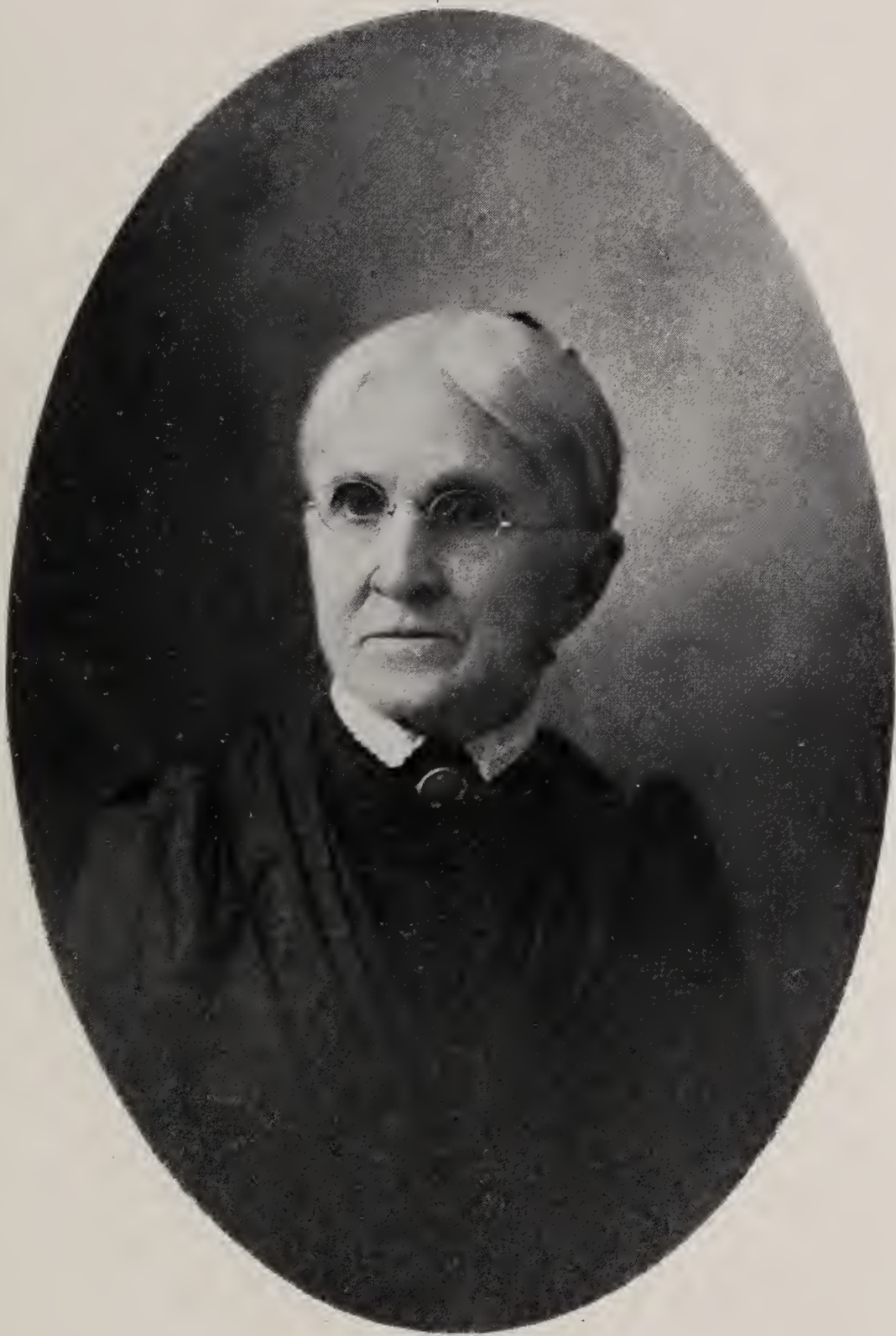




J. L. GIBBS







MRS. J. L. GIBBS





was born May 3, 1838, daughter of Harvey and Laura (Maxson) Partridge and widow of Sheriff James A. Robson. Mrs. Gibbs now makes her home in Owatonna, but still owns the homestead of 240 acres, adjoining the village of Geneva.

**O. S. Gilmore** was for many years a prosperous merchant in Freeborn village and is a prominent man in that village at the present time. He was born in Addison county, Vermont, February 17, 1844, son of Epenetus and Laura (McQuivey) Gilmore. In 1865 he came west with his parents, who stopped for about six weeks in Wisconsin, after which they came to Freeborn and settled on section 32 and here engaged in farming. For two years O. S., the subject of this biography, was employed as clerk in T. A. Southwick's store in the village of Freeborn and at the end of this period he entered into a general mercantile business, which he conducted for twenty-eight years. During his business career he entered into partnership with G. P. Lattin and later sold out his interests to J. G. Scott, after which he organized a new firm known as O. S. Gilmore & Son. Mr. Gilmore married Jennie E. Leonard, daughter of Carl and Mary Ann (Wasmer) Leonard, natives of Germany, and this marriage resulted in five children; Ansel E., married Bertha Scoville; they have one child, Gordon; Laura, wife of Charles Morris, has two children, Thomas and Rita; Otis J. married Gertrude Miller, and they have one child, Florence; Clyde travels for a business house; and Merle G. is at home. Mr. Gilmore is a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted in 1862 in Company A, 6th Vermont Vol. Inf. He was honorably discharged on account of illness six months later and returned to his home. It can be truly said of Mr. Gilmore that the increasing years have brought to him increasing honor; he has the respect and confidence of all who know him and possesses those qualities which have won for him the high esteem in which he is held. For fifteen years he was treasurer of the town and served as treasurer of the school for thirteen years, acting with marked wisdom in both offices. He has now retired from the activities of a business life and resides in the village in which for so many years he has been recognized as a leading citizen. He is an independent voter and he and his good wife are active workers in the Methodist church.

**Daniel Hord** was born in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Jan. 29, 1842. At the age of three years, he was brought west by his parents, stopping at Wisconsin for a period of six months, thence to Winnebago county, Ill. There he received his schooling and grew to manhood, coming west to Minnesota with his parents in 1857, and locating in Manchester township, Freeborn county. In Aug., 1866, he crossed the prairies to Omaha, Neb., where he remained until the spring of 1867, after which he continued his journey



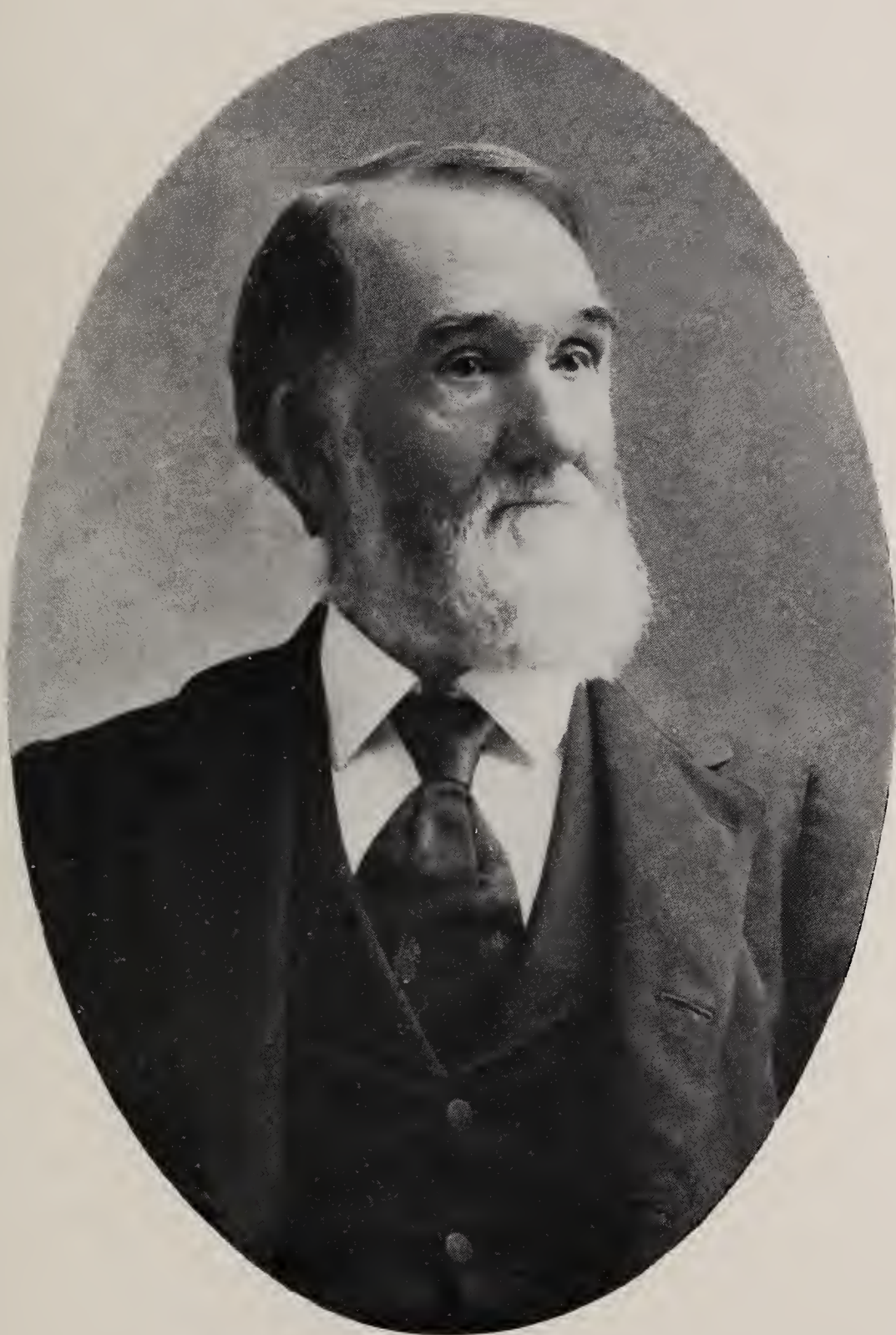
to Ogden, Utah, remaining there until the winter of 1868, when he returned to Freeborn county, having been called home by the death of his father. He lived on the home place until the farm was sold. He was married April 8, 1868, to Mary Smith, who was born Sept. 3, 1852, Winnebago county, Ill. In 1872, they moved to Itasca, Minn., where he farmed two years. They returned to Freeborn county in 1874, and settled in section 7, Pickerel Lake township. In the spring of 1876 they removed to Alden township, where he farmed for one year. In 1877 they went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and there he worked a year on a ranch in the Black Hills. While in Wyoming, they lost a child, who died of smallpox. In 1878 they came back to Alden, and located on section 23, where they lived and carried on general farming until 1902, when they sold their farm and moved to the village of Alden, where they have since resided. They have three living children: Bertha, is now Mrs. E. H. Ostrander, of Alden township, and has ten children. Clark is a popular member of the Odd Fellows, and is a successful business man of Alden, having conducted a dray line for the past nine years. He married Daisy Kraushaar, and they reside with his parents. Edna lives in Alden. She is the wife of Earl Stanley.

**Harrison Hord**, territorial pioneer, of Freeborn county, and a native of Virginia, and Amelia (Connard) Hord, his wife, a native of Ohio, came to Manchester township in 1857, and took a claim in section 31, where they followed general farming until the death of Mr. Hord, Jan. 19, 1868. His wife passed away, Nov. 12, 1893.

**William D. Smith**, a native of New York state, and Susan (Hunn) Smith, his wife, a native of England, came to Freeborn county in 1858, locating in Manchester township. Some years later they moved to Hayward township this county, where they remained for five years; thence going to Pickerel Lake township, where they lived until 1881, when they removed to Moody county, South Dakota, where Mrs. Smith still lives, Mr. Smith having died Feb. 18, 1906.

**James H. Goslee**, retired farmer and substantial citizen of London, was born in Glessenbury, Connecticut, on Jan. 31, 1831, son of Henry and Maria Goslee. He received his education in the school of his home state, and came west to Minnesota in 1857. He located in the township of London and purchased 160 acres of land, to which he has added as the years have passed until at the present time he owns 600 acres. The first few years of his life on the farm in this county, he spent in raising wheat, but some time before the wheat failure, he engaged in stock raising. When the wheat failure came, he not only did not lose money but profited by raising cattle, which he fattened and





JAMES H. GOSLEE









MR. AND MRS. M. J. HOWE



sold, and which brought the best of market prices. On March 2, 1860, Mr. Goslee married Zillah T. Beach, of New York, and to them two children were born: Henry A. Goslee, of Austin, who is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in that city; and Dwight who died at the age of seven years. Mrs. Zillah Goslee was summoned by death January 14, 1891. Elizabeth McKenty married Mr. Goslee July 6, 1892, who died in September, 1894. On Oct. 17, 1899, he married Annie J. Porter, of Connecticut, and they are the parents of one son, James Alan-son. Mr. Goslee is a respected member of the church of United Brethren and he affiliates with the Republican party. He has been elected to serve in the office of town treasurer for six years, and has also efficiently served as the town assessor. He belongs to that class of sturdy and enterprising men who have had an important part in the work of transforming the county from a state of comparative wilderness to one of the most productive and progressive counties in Minnesota. In addition to his farm interests he is a stockholder in the bank at Lyle and also a stockholder and director in the telephone company in the same place.

**M. J. Howe**, one of the prominent men of Alden township was born in Rutland county, Vermont, August 13, 1847, son of Albert C. and Julia (Baker) Howe. In 1864 the father brought his family to Pickerel Lake township in this county and four years later M. J., the subject of this sketch began farming for himself. He at present owns 350 acres in sections 22 and 23 Alden township, which he has acquired by earnest endeavor and entirely by his own efforts. He uses the most up-to-date farm machinery and conducts his whole farm along lines which have received the scientific approval of recent years. He raises a good breed of Durham cattle, and his horses are of Norman, French and Belgium breeds. His fine dwelling house and substantial farm buildings are evidences no less of prosperity than of the years of careful attention and hard work which have made them possible. Mr. Howe is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is independent and has been a member of the local school board and of the town board of supervisors for some years. He married Ella M. Howe, daughter of O. C. C. Howe. She was born in Catteraugus county, New York, September 23, 1849. To this union have been born eleven children: James was born January 24, 1871, and died September 12, 1899. Ebenezer was born June 5, 1872, and is now a resident of Alden village. Oliver was born March 17, 1874, and now resides in Browns Valley, Minnesota. Mary was born February 3, 1876, and married Ora Briggs, of Milbank, S. D. Florence was born October 13, 1878, and married John Briggs and now lives in Minneapolis. Clarence was born July 19, 1880, and now resides in Pickerel

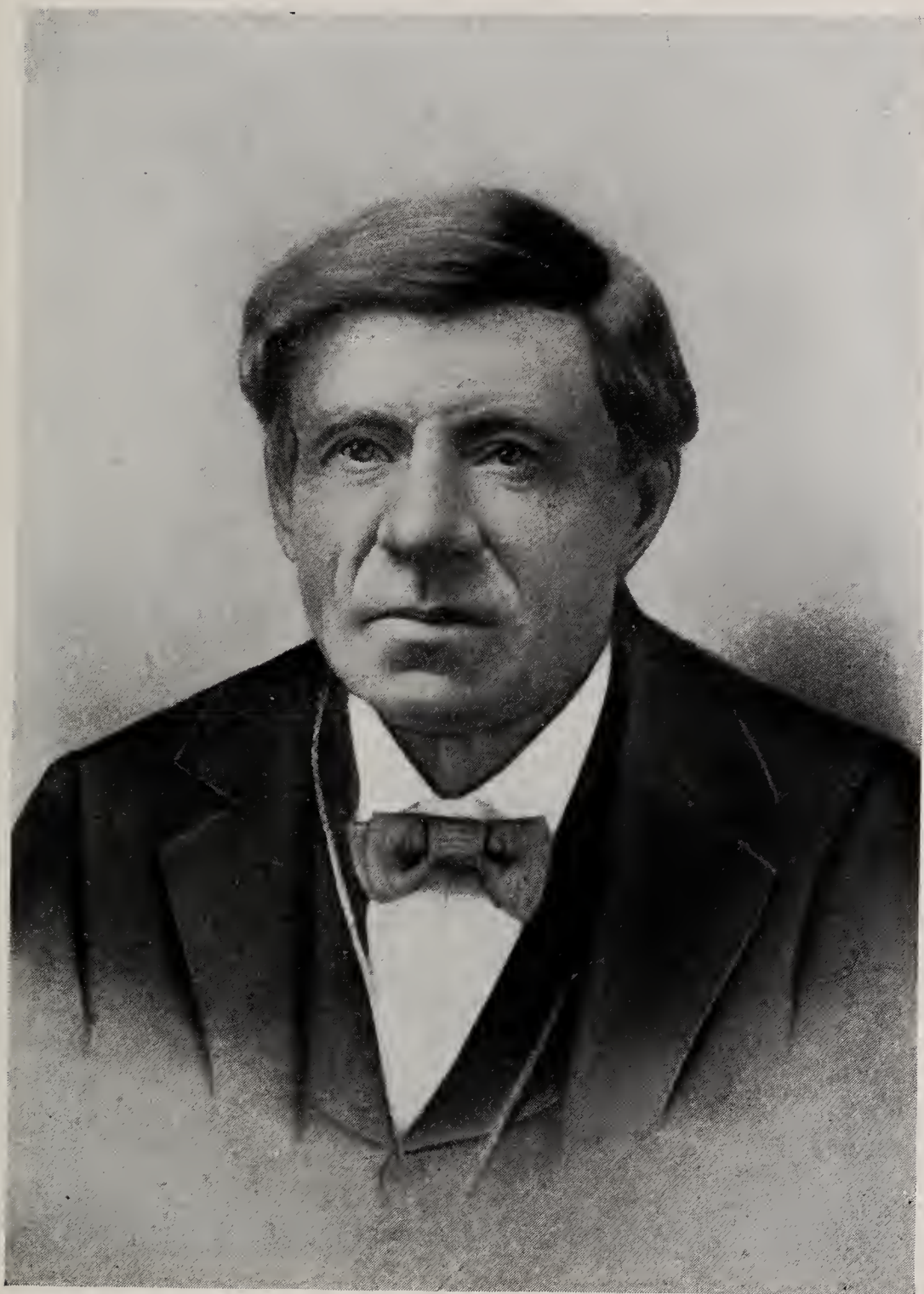


Lake township. William was born December 14, 1881, and died May 10, 1882. Joseph was born December 25, 1884, and is still at home. Maggie was born September 12, 1886, and married Jesse Marsh and is living at home. Helen was born March 3, 1888, and married Earl Stevens. Harriet was born March 24, 1894, and married Robert E. Conn, of Cass county, Indiana.

**Carl Hendrickson**, one of the noteworthy and substantial citizens of Freeborn county, has occupied many offices of responsibility and honor, and in all has shown his ability, honor and integrity. He was on the town board of Hartland several years, served as town treasurer fifteen years, and for four years was county commissioner from his district. He was born in Norway, May 12, 1838, son of Ole and Mary Hendrickson, and was by them brought to America in 1850, spending his boyhood and young manhood in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where his parents spent the remainder of their days. In 1868, he came to Minnesota, and purchased 160 acres in section 2, Hartland township, where he erected his home and other buildings, and where he has since carried on general farming, developing and improving his land, and adding to his possessions from time to time until he owns 440 acres all in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Hendrickson was married in 1859 to Esther Matson, who has long since passed to the Great Beyond, leaving nine children: Henry, of Colorado; Mrs. Carolina Burtness, Mrs. Emma Sibblrud, Mrs. Oliva Jordahl, Mrs. Louisa Peterson, Mrs. Tilda Cole; Ole, of South Dakota; Albert, who farms with his father, and Martha, who died at eight years of age. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Hendrickson is a liberal supporter.

**William Hazleton**, a retired business man of Albert Lea, was born February 7, 1825, at Chester, New Hampshire. His parents were William and Mercy J. (Cochrane) Hazleton, of whom the former was a prosperous merchant in Chester, where he died, and the latter passed away at Columbus, Wisconsin. William, the son, subject of this biography began his early education in the public schools of Chester, and completed them in a private seminary at Nashua, New Hampshire. He entered the business world in Chester as a wholesale shoe manufacturer, shipping his product to Boston. In conjunction with this he conducted a retail store for four years, after which he disposed of his interests on account of ill health, and came west. He located first in Columbus, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the general merchandise business with W. W. Johnson, which was in 1856. They continued to operate this store until 1869. They then moved their stock of goods to Albert Lea, and here he engaged in business with W. W. Johnson for several years. He eventually sold out his share of the stock and entered into a similar business with





CARL HENDRICKSON









MR. AND MRS. ENDRE GULBRANDSON



Robert Skinner, with whom he continued for about four years, and at the end of this period, he purchased Mr. Skinner's interests and conducted the store on his own responsibility for three years. Mr. Hazleton was instrumental in organizing the first creamery in Freeborn county, the Fountain Lake creamery, which was the second creamery organized in the state. For several years Mr. Hazleton was manager of this creamery association, and he later engaged in buying and selling eggs and poultry with J. H. Larkin. They built a cold storage egg plant which they operated for three years, and at the expiration of that time Mr. Hazleton retired from an active business life, and now resides in his home at 114 Water street, which he erected the first year that he came to Albert Lea. In political opinions, he is a staunch Republican. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian church. On August 25, 1859, Mr. Hazleton and Martha M. Brigham were married at Keesville, New York. Mrs. Hazleton was born at Keesville, January 2, 1837, daughter of John and Mary (Moore) Brigham, now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Hazleton three children were born, of whom Fannie is the wife of Dr. L. G. Hewitt of Northwood, Iowa, and William B. and Edward C., are deceased.

**J. P. Hanson**, a native of Hayward township, was born on the farm where he now lives November 17, 1862, son of Peter and Annie Anderson, both natives of Norway, and who came to the United States in 1861. The subject of this sketch attended the country school which was then conducted in a log building. He later worked on his father's farm and worked out by the month for some years. In 1888 he rented his father's farm and after the death of his mother he bought it and today has a well improved farm of 160 acres, where he follows general farming and raises stock. The land he has tilled and improved to a high state of cultivation since purchasing it. In 1885 he married Annie Solsnes, a native of Norway, and to them have been born seven children, Philip, Agnes E., Milla G., Inga J., Harlof W., Palma G., and Loif T. Mr. Hanson is a member of the Lutheran church. He votes with the Republican party, has been a member of the town board and was on the school board fifteen years. He is a stock holder in the Hayward creamery and also in the Farmers' elevator of Haywood.

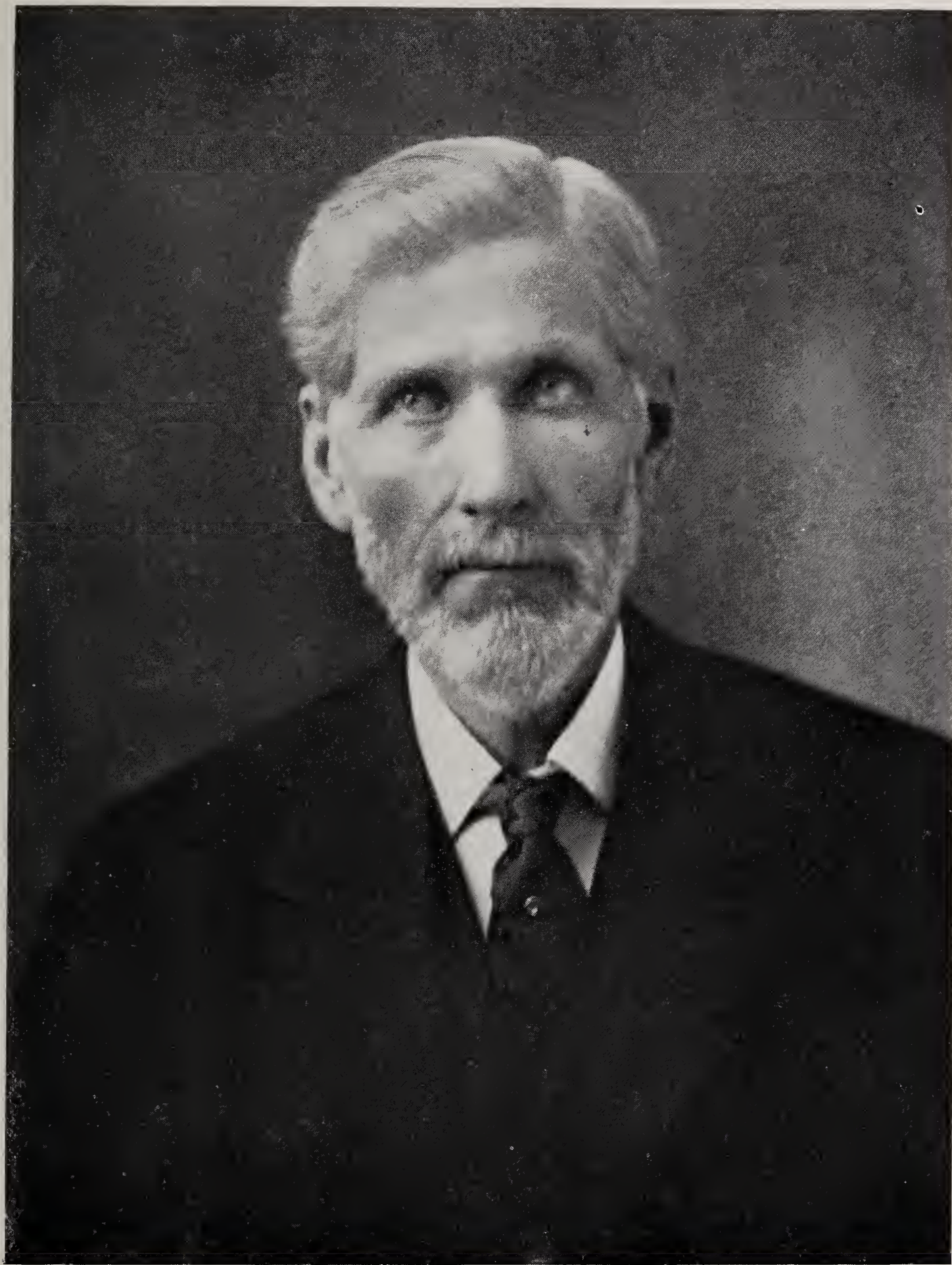
**Endre Gulbrandson**, a sturdy old pioneer of Freeborn county, now deceased, assisted in the development of the county from the earliest days, and left a heritage of honor and integrity which has been held untarnished by his large family of children. He was born in Aadalen, Norway, Dec. 4, 1812, son of Gulbrand and Kari Gulbrandson, descended from many generations of Norsk ancestors. He grew to manhood in Norway, was there married, and there spent his early manhood. In 1852 he brought his family



to America, and located for a time in Iowa county, Wisconsin, later moving to Wingville, Grant county, in the same state. May 8, 1856, the family started for Minnesota. Endre left his family in Houston county, and walked to Mitchell, Iowa, where he met his relative, Peter Lunde. The two men staked out claims in Hayward township, this county, and then returned for their families, the Gulbrandson family arriving about the middle of the summer. For a time the family lived in a dugout on a claim of 160 acres in section 17, but later they moved to a claim in section 8, and there lived in another dugout. In 1863 a log house was built, 20x30 feet, two stories high. Mr. Gulbrandson prospered with the years, and his agricultural operations proved so successful that he increased his holdings until he owned 280 acres of good land. Although a true American, he never forgot the scenes of his childhood and early manhood, and in 1885 he made a trip to the old country, spending six months in visiting friends and relatives. Mr. Gulbrandson exerted a great influence in his community, and participated actively in political life. He was interested in everything which he believed to be for the betterment of his town, and was in every way a good citizen. In his home, he was a loving husband and devoted father, and in the community he was a staunch friend. Thoroughly trained in the tenets of the Lutheran church, he possessed a true Christian character, and was an active promoter of religion in this county. He lived until his death in the log house, which he erected in the early days. The house is still preserved and is owned by his son, Vegger Gulbrandson. Endre Gulbrandson died March 27, 1886, and his wife Marit Hanson, who was born in Aadalen, Norway, Sept. 2, 1814, and whom he married in 1840, died Feb 21, 1898. This worthy couple had a family of eight children: Gilbert, deceased; Julia, deceased; Hans, of Albert Lea; Vegger, of Albert Lea; Kari, now Mrs. Lars Lunde, of Hayward; Maria, deceased; Elsie L., of Albert Lea, and Edward, deceased.

**Hans Gulbrandson**, proprietor of the Gulbrandson Hardware Company, dealer in hardware, farm machinery and implements, and all kinds of vehicles, was born in Aadalen, Norway, Oct. 9, 1844, son of Endre and Marit (Hanson) Gulbrandson, the former of whom died in 1886 and the latter in 1898. The family came to America in 1852, lived in Iowa county, Wisconsin, two years, moved to Grant county in the same state in 1854, and May 8, 1856, took up their residence in Hayward township, this county, where Hans spent his youth. In the fall of 1868 and again in the fall of 1869, he worked in a hardware store in Austin. In 1870, he started selling farm implements at Albert Lea in partnership with his brothers, Gilbert and Vegger. In 1876 Gilbert disposed of his interests, and in 1877 a hardware department was added.





HANS GULBRANDSON





Hans and Vegger conducted the business until January, 1900, when Vegger retired, and since that date, Hans has been the sole owner. The block which contains the farm machinery stock was erected in 1898 by the subject of this sketch. The block in which is located the hardware business was erected in 1886 by Hans and Vegger Gulbrandson. Hans Gulbrandson has always been a Republican, but at the request of his brother Gilbert, voted for Horace Greeley for president of the United States. For many years he has been a devoted member of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of Albert Lea, the Synod with which this church is connected being the oldest Norwegian Lutheran church body in the United States. The subject of this sketch was married July 4, 1878, at Albert Lea to Olava Elizabeth Nelson, and this union has been blessed with three children: Einar and Edmund are employed by their father. Martha A. is wife of the Rev. A. E. Strom, of Fertile, Wis.

**Vegger Gulbrandson**, banker and retired business man, is one of Albert Lea's most useful and active citizens, having taken a vital interest in the business, agricultural, financial and educational development of the county since his arrival here with the earliest settlers in 1856. He was born in Aadalen, Norway, Nov. 4, 1846, son of Endre and Marit (Hanson) Gulbrandson, and with them came to the United States in 1852, locating in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and later in Grant county in the same state. In 1856 the family came to Freeborn county, and took up their residence in Hayward township. Vegger attended the common schools for a brief time, but the larger part of his education has been received from close observation and keen reasoning, as well as by deep reading. He worked out for a time, but spent most of his youth on the home farm in Hayward township. While on the farm he became interested in the sale of farm machinery, and after a time decided to devote his entire time to that business. Accordingly, in 1876, he came to Albert Lea, and engaged in that line in partnership with his brothers, Gilbert and Hans. Subsequently Gilbert sold his interest. In the course of time a hardware department was added, and Hans and Vegger conducted the business for nearly twenty-five years, erecting suitable buildings, maintaining a large volume of trade, and enjoying the confidence and trust of the entire community. A few years ago, Vegger retired to the extent of giving up his active interest in the business, but he is still busily engaged in looking after his various holdings. He is vice-president of the First National Bank, of Albert Lea, and the owner of 300 acres of fine land in Hayward township, the patent to 220 acres of which bears the signature of no less a personage than Abraham Lincoln. For many years, Mr. Gulbrandson labored for the upbuilding of Luther Academy, at



Albert Lea, as one of its most active directors, and he is still one of the trustees of Luther College at Decorah, Iowa. A Republican in politics, he has done the city of Albert Lea excellent service as a member of the charter commission, and as an alderman of the third ward. He has also been prominently mentioned in connection with several important state offices. As an historical investigator, Mr. Gulbrandson is painstaking and accurate, and his services have been invaluable in establishing beyond a doubt the story of the first permanent settlement of Freeborn county. He was also instrumental in having the first cabin built in Freeborn county moved to the fair grounds. On Aug. 26, 1880, Vegger Gulbrandson was united in marriage with Anna Marie Knutson, a most accomplished lady, daughter of Hans and Ingeborg Knutson, of Winnebago county, Iowa. This union has been blessed with seven children: Eskeld H. is a hardware merchant in Ellendale, Minn.; Ina lives at home; Victor M. is a traveling salesman for Deere, Webber & Co., of Minneapolis; Amos B. is a hardware merchant in Hayward, Minn.; Cleon D. is a student at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; Fremont G. and Kathinka L. are at home and attend the public schools. The family residence is at 218 East William street.

**Mrs. Vegger Gulbrandson** is one of those faithful home-makers whose influence in the church and home has been an important factor in the life of the community. Anna Maria Knudson, as she was then called, was born in Winnebago county, Iowa, March 27, 1861, daughter of Hans and Ingeborg (Dahl) Knudson, natives of Norway, who came to America at an early day, lived in Janesville, Wis., for a while and then located in Winnebago county, Iowa, where they followed farming the remainder of their days, the father dying in March, 1887, and the mother in January, 1905. The daughter, before being married to Vegger Gulbrandson, August 26, 1880, attended the common schools and remained at home with her parents. After her marriage she came directly to Albert Lea, where she has since made her home. She has been a good wife and loyal mother, and has raised a goodly family of children. Mrs. Gulbrandson is an active worker in the Synod Lutheran church, and a prominent member of the Ladies' Aid Society of that institution. She is also interested in a number of other goods works, and has taken an especial interest in the Old Settlers' Association, of which her husband is a leading member.

**B. J. Hermanson**, chairman of the township of Bancroft, an office which he has held for the past several years, is one of the prominent men in the county. He was born March 12, 1857, and his parents, John and Martha Hermanson, were early settlers in Bancroft. He has held many other offices of responsibility, among







MR. AND MRS. J. J. HOVE



which are member of the town board for seven years, clerk of the school board and treasurer, and in all offices to which he has been elected to serve, he has ever given his best efforts. His early education was acquired in the common schools of the township and he has since followed farming. He owns 152 acres of land and a church and school house have been erected on his farm. He keeps a dairy herd of red poll cows and disposes of the cream to the Bancroft creamery, of which institution he has been secretary in the past and now is a stockholder. He married Matie Ackland, a daughter of Nels Ackland, an old settler of Manchester now deceased, and to this marriage one daughter, Beatrice, has been born. She is a pupil in Luther Academy at Albert Lea. Mrs. Hermanson died in 1894. Mr. Hermanson is a voter of the Republican ticket and a respected member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**J. O. Hellie** is one of the extensive land owners of Bancroft township. His parents, Ole J. and Mary (Haugen) Hellie came to America from Norway in 1850 and settled in Washington Prairie, Iowa, where the subject of this biography was born November 15, 1864. The following year the family came to Freeborn county and located in Bancroft on the farm where their son, J. O., resides at the present time. Mr. Hellie owns 276 acres in Bancroft and 160 in the state of Oregon, making a total of 436 acres, and this valuable property has been acquired by years of hard work and self denial. Beginning early in life to make his way in the world he has accomplished his highest ambitions as his surroundings testify. The large brick house in which he lives was built by himself and father, also the commodious barns and other buildings and his productive farm yields him abundant crops each year. He keeps a fine dairy herd preferring the Short-horn breed, and together with his dairying interests, he engages in stock raising, general farming and raises many Poland-China hogs. He sells cream to the Riceland creamery, in which he is one of the stockholders. He believes in modern farming methods, and his interest in education has been shown by his service on the school board. He has also served his township in the capacity of chairman for several years and in every respect is one of the foremost citizens in Bancroft. Anna Selstad became his wife in 1887, and ten children are the result of this marriage: Alfred, Julia, Evelyn, Vernon, Herbert, Theodore, Melvin, Joseph, Lloyd and Mable. The latter is dead. Mr. Hellie is not alone a public spirited man, but one whose good judgment and kindly manner have won him many loyal friends.

**J. J. Hove**, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Hayward, is a native of Norway, born February 10, 1860, son of Johanes and Bertha Hove. His father Johanes Hove came to America in



1886 and located in Bancroft township, Freeborn county, where he lived till his death. The subject of this biography came to the United States in 1881, and having received a good education in Norway continued his studies here, at first in the common schools, where he became familiar with the English language and later at Luther Academy of Albert Lea. During these years he worked on farms during the school vacations and thus was able to pay his way without assistance. He later taught school two years, and then went into the mercantile business in Hayward, which he continued till 1904. He then sold out his business and organized the Farmers' State Bank, of Hayward, and was elected to the position of cashier, which he still occupies. In 1900 he married Magdalene Lunde, daughter of Lars Lunde, of Hayward. To this union have been born four children, James Norman, Pearl Lenora, Leland Horatio, Lars Erling. Mr. Hove is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and served as postmaster at Hayward eight years, school clerk eight years, town clerk six years and was elected county commissioner in 1906 and re-elected to serve another term of four years in 1910. He owns a fine residence in Hayward and eighty acres of land adjoining the village, as well as business buildings in the village. Mr. Hove, though more successful than the average, has made his success for himself, and thus gives evidence that the opportunity for those willing to work is still at hand and that success and rewards are commensurate to effort and ability. Mr. Hove is a stockholder and the president of the Farmers' elevator, of Hayward, and is a charter member of the Society of Sognolaget, of which he has been treasurer since its organization.

**Halver K. Fodness**, a native of Norway, was born August 20, 1847, son of Knut and Inger (Berg) Fodness. In 1855 they landed at Quebec and later went to Iowa county, Wisconsin, and purchased forty acres of land, where they lived till 1860. They then moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa. In 1865 they went to Faribault county, Minnesota, where they farmed a year. In 1866 they came to this county and settled in London township, where the mother died. The family then moved to Riceland township, this county, where the father died. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools and early learned the lessons of thrift and industry which have served him well his whole life. After working out for several years he bought, in 1893, 160 acres in section 20, Moscow township, and has since erected a roomy and comfortable dwelling, barns, sheds and other buildings which are on his farm today. He broke a large part of the land, which he has since cultivated and in all ways made an excellent farm from the wild land he first purchased. He follows general farming and gives special attention to dairying. He assisted in the





MR. AND MRS. H. K. FODNESS









WILLIAM J. HORNING



organization of the Moscow creamery and for several years was president of it. On June 20, 1870, he married Carrie Hibbard, of Freeborn county, and to them have been born seven children: Ingre, who married Ben. Bridley, of Moscow; Tina, who married Geo. King, of Minneapolis; Sina married Joseph Baum, of Aitkin county; Carl, who lives in Grand Forks, N. D., where he is mail clerk; Jacob, of Moscow township; Etta, who is at home and Mabel O. of Grand Forks. Mr. Fodness is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a progressive Republican and has been elected to many town and school offices. He served as supervisor in both Riceland and Moscow townships. Since the organization of school district 127, he has been either clerk or treasurer until his election to his present office as director. He has been a director of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, of Manchester, for more than twenty years. He owes his present place of high esteem in his community to his own efforts, and his kindly spirit and exact business methods have won him a host of friends.

**William J. Horning**, retired farmer and veteran of the Civil War, now residing in Albert Lea, was born in Herkimer county, New York, February 23, 1830, son of Henry and Margaret (Countryman) Horning, who were natives of New York of German descent. In 1857, the father died and the mother in company with her two sons, David and William J. came west to Minnesota and settled in Albert Lea, where she spent the remainder of her life. William J., the subject of this sketch went to school in Jefferson county, New York, and there spent the days of his boyhood and worked for his father on the farm. After coming to Minnesota with his mother and brother he located in Pickerel Lake township, where he bought a tract of land comprising 240 acres. This farm was situated in the northeast corner of section 21 and was broken and cultivated and made most productive by the hard work of Mr. Horning. In later years, he erected a fine and comfortable home and the good outbuildings necessary for the shelter of his farming machinery, stock and grains, and was recognized as one of the leading farmers in that community. He carried on general and diversified farming until 1901, when he rented his farm and moved into Albert Lea, where he now lives a retired life in his comfortable home at 724 Fountain street. In 1862 Mr. Horning enlisted in Co. C., 15th Minn. Vol. Inf. and he served through all the battles and skirmishes that the regiment was engaged in. During the battle of Nashville, on December 16, 1864, when the color bearer was shot and fell, Mr. Horning at once picked up the flag and carried it during the remainder of the battle, being slightly wounded. He as well as others was presented with a white silk badge by Col. Hubbard with the list of all the battles in which he served printed on one side and they



are as follows: Farmington, Mississippi; Redwood, Minn.; Fort Ridgely, Minn.; Fort Abercrombie, Minn.; Iuka, Miss.; Corinth, Miss.; Mississippi Springs, Miss.; Jackson, Miss.; Assault on Vicksburg; Sartatia, Miss.; Mechanicsburg, Miss.; Richmond, La.; Canton, Miss.; Brownsville, Miss.; Barton Station, Miss.; Fort De Russy, La.; Henderson Hill, La.; Grand Ecote, La.; Compti, La.; Pleasant Hill, La.; Cloutiersville, La.; Cane River, La.; Moore's Plantation, La.; Bayou La Moure, La.; Bayou Roberts, La.; Mansura, La.; Bayou De Glaise, La.; Lake Chicot, Ark.; Tupelo, La.; Oxford, Miss.; Abbeyville, Miss.; Nashville, Tenn.; Fish River, Ala.; Spanish Fort, Ala.; Fort Blakely, Ala. Of this military record Mr. Horning is justly proud, proving as it does that he risked his life to save the flag and the Union. Mr. Horning relates that on August 19, 1862, in company with Judge D. W. Stacy and John G. Godley, he shot and killed the Indian chief, Hole-in-the-Ground. Mr. Horning is a member of the Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., of Albert Lea, and he has been associated with the I. O. O. F. of this city for many years, being the present Senior Noble Grand and having passed through all the chairs in this order and being a charter member. He votes with the Democratic party, and though at the advanced age of eighty-one he is actively interested in all movements toward the betterment of his city and county. He has in his possession a Bible dating 1534, which was published in Germany and brought to America by his grand parents. Mr. Horning believes that this Bible is one of the oldest in the United States. Mr. Horning married Esther Johnson in August, 1867, and to them have been born nine children, of whom Manville, resides in Alden; William lives at Carlston; Sylvester is a resident of Pickerel Lake, Elsworth lives in Lyons county; Lester rents and works the old home farm; John is a resident of Lyons county; Victoria married Rufus Reese of Clear Lake; Mildred is Mrs. Harry Allen of Lamars, Iowa, and Ada lives in Lyons county. Mrs. Horning passed away March 12, 1886, at the age of thirty-seven years. She was born July 7, 1849, in New York state.

**M. J. Hermanson** was born in Freeborn county January 7, 1866, son of John and Martha (Tisdell) Hermanson, early pioneers, who came from Norway to Freeborn county, and for several years lived in a dugout. As they cleared their land and grew more prosperous, they built a log cabin, where they lived until able to erect a comfortable house. The father was a farmer until the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1908, at the age of 84 years, the mother having passed away a year previous to this time. They were the parents of nine children, one of whom is now deceased. M. J., their son was ever a studious boy, spending all his spare moments studying, hoping in time to fit himself for a



teacher; after leaving the district school he entered high school and later attended the Lutheran Academy in Albert Lea. That he accomplished his ambition is shown by his service as a teacher for ten years, and as such, he gave universal satisfaction. He was obliged to give up teaching and assume charge of the old home farm, and here until recently carried on general farming. This farm is well kept, and for many years he was interested in stock raising and dairying. He now rents the land and has retired from farming caring for the home but unable to engage in the strenuous work required to keep the farm under cultivation. He was, for several years treasurer of the town and also secretary of the Bancroft Creamery Association, and at present he is one of the stockholders in the creamery. He votes with the Republican party and in the community in which he has made his home he is well liked and respected. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

**Fred Holway**, the successful lumber dealer of Alden, residing in that village, was born in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, May 19, 1865, son of N. B. and Sarah J. (Blackwell) Holway. His early boyhood was spent in that county, and he acquired his education in the common schools near his home. He came to Alden in the spring of 1886, and engaged in the lumber business, which he has successfully conducted since that time. Matilda Emerson, a daughter of J. M. Emerson, became the wife of Mr. Holway, and this marriage has been blessed by the birth of four children: Cleon, Argile, Bernardine and Marjorie. Mr. Holway is recognized as one of the leading and public-spirited men in Alden and he is actively interested in all movements toward the progress and betterment of the village, of which he is a resident. He has served as president of the village council in which office his good sense and superior judgment have won for him the good will and esteem of his fellow citizens. He is a member of Alden Lodge, No. 1927, I. O. O. F., of the A. F. & A. M., and Western Star Lodge, No. 26, O. E. S. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Alden.

**Ole C. Johnson**, who for many years has occupied various offices of responsibility and esteem in Clarks Grove, was born in Norway, April 13, 1852, son of Christ Johnson and Christa (Erickson) Johnson. He came to the United States in 1856 with his parents, who first settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, and remained there four years, after which they moved to Minnesota and established their home in Bath township. When the war between the North and South broke out, the father enlisted in Co. K, 15th Wisconsin Vol. Inf., and one son, E. C., enlisted in the 10th Minnesota Vol. Inf. Both father and son served their adopted country for three years, and were honorably discharged



at the close of the war, and returned to their home in this state. The mother died during the war and the father several years after its close. They were the parents of five children: Mary, Erick, John, Christ and O. C., the subject of this biography. Mr. Johnson has always followed farming since completing his education in the common schools, and has a fine well kept farm of 80 acres, on which he conducts general and dairy farming. He keeps graded stock for dairy purposes and has, by dint of hard work and untiring energy made his farm one of the well improved and productive farms in the community. He and Josephine Sorlie, a daughter of Iver and Mary Sorlie, of Iowa, were united in wedlock and they are the parents of three living children: Oscar, who is farming; Mabel, the wife of Scott Brown, an engineer on the Rock Island railroad; and Victor, at home. Clement died at twenty-two years of age. Mr. Johnson is a stockholder in the Clarks Grove Co-Operative Creamery, and has been town constable for many years. In politics he adheres to the principles endorsed by the Republican party and for twenty-two years he had been clerk of the school board of his districts. He attends divine worship at the Norwegian Lutheran church, and is one of the highly respected members of this organization.

**Josiah Jones** was born September 7, 1828, at Rensen, Oneida county, New York, son of Moses and Dina (Davis) Jones, both of whom died in New York state. He received his education in his native county and in 1856 came west to Wisconsin, where he lived three years. In 1859 he came to Minnesota and here took a pre-emption of 160 acres and later homesteaded 80 acres more and finally bought 80 acres making him a total of one-half section. This land all lay in Carlston township, where he lived on section 23. Here for many years he followed general farming most successfully. After his most active years he sold 80 acres to his son J. E., and in 1903 sold the remainder of his farm and removed to Alden village. The subject of this sketch has always been very active in church work. He served as deacon of his home church, the First Baptist, of Rensen, N. Y., and when he lived in Wisconsin meetings were held for some time in his house. For many years he has been deacon of the church in Freeborn. On Sept. 2, 1851, he married Mary Williams in Rensen, Oneida county, New York. She was born August 18, 1831, daughter of Herbert and Jane (Hughes) Williams, both of whom were natives of New York. To this union have been born seven children: J. E. is on the home place; C. V. is at home; Jennie married David Garlock, now deceased; Herbert W. lives in Carlston township; George E. lives in Freeborn township; B. D. lives in Freeborn township; and Simeon died at six weeks of age.





JOSIAH JONES AND FAMILY





**J. E. Jones**, son of Josiah and Mary (Williams) Jones, was born in Oneida county, N. Y., October 20, 1853. He received his early education in the common schools of Carlston township and studied one year at Mankato. He later went to Minneapolis, where he was employed as a carpenter for one year, after which he clerked in a hotel. He has traveled considerable and has proven himself versatile in the various lines of work which he has carried on in different parts of the country and under very difficult circumstances.

**Frank H. Fisk** has been county surveyor for a number of terms. In addition to his work as county surveyor, he is an expert on ditching, tiling and dredging, as well as other forms of drainage and sewerage systems, being county drainage engineer (in which capacity he has to furnish a \$10,000 bond) and also assistant engineer of the State Highway Commission, one of his most notable engineering feats being the draining of Rice lake and marsh into Turtle creek, the drainage system being officially known as Judicial Ditch, No. 1. Socially, Mr. Fisk is a prominent member of the local lodge of Elks, and is serving that body at the present time as esteemed lecturing knight. Frank H. Fisk was born in Dublin, New Hampshire, March 28, 1857, son of Asa and Priscilla (Ramstad) Fisk, natives, respectively, of Vermont and New Hampshire, in which latter state the father farmed until his death in 1870, the mother passing away in 1895. Frank H. attended the public schools of his neighborhood, and then entered historic old Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H. After completing his general education, and his courses in civil and constructing engineering he came westward to Elgin, Ill., and became city engineer. While there he studied law, and was admitted to the bar. Later, wider opportunities presented themselves, and in 1876, Centennial year, Mr. Fisk entered the employ of the government, mapping out lands in the Powder river valley in Montana and Dakota. A year later he entered the employ of the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad with headquarters at Minneapolis. But the financial depression caused that company to retrench on improvements and extensions, and accordingly Mr. Fisk became a school teacher, pursuing this profession in Freeborn, Mower and Waseca counties. His success was immediate, and he soon became principal of the schools at Forest City, Winnebago county, Iowa, retaining that position five years. During this period he received an appointment as state institute instructor and director, having charge of summer work for teachers in Winnebago and surrounding counties. Subsequently he came to Albert Lea, and in 1896 was elected to the county position which he has since held continuously. The subject of this sketch was married in 1880 to Mary E. Thurston, oldest daughter of Henry

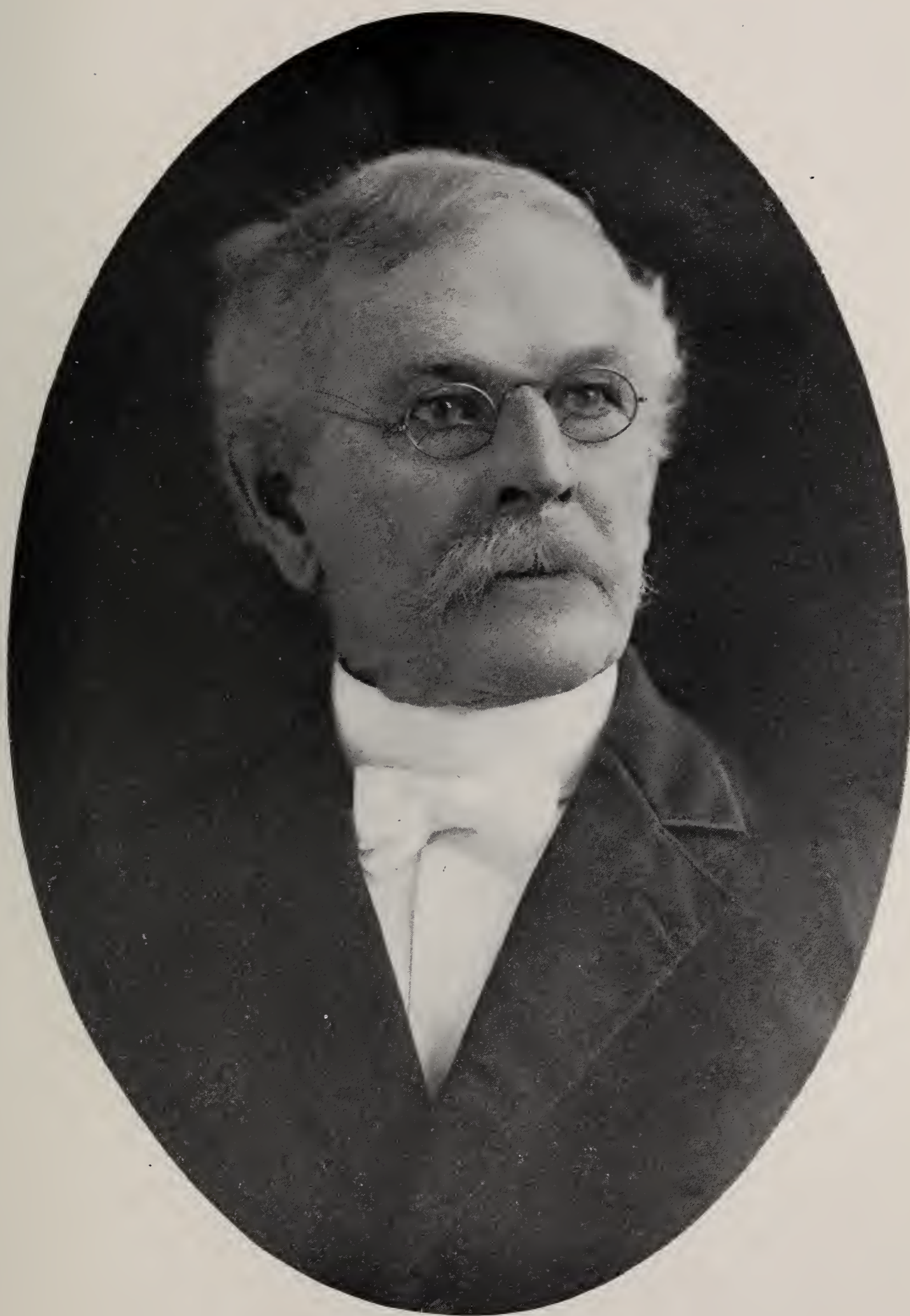


and Martha (Parks) Thurston, who came to Albert Lea in the fifties. The Thurstons were a prominent family in the early days. Prof. Thurston served as county superintendent of schools some fourteen years, and died at Washington, D. C., in 1906. After the death of Mrs. Thurston, in 1887, Prof. Thurston married Mrs. Frank Tanner, who died in 1909.

**William Wallace Johnson** was born on a farm in New York state, May 11, 1832, and there spent his early life. He removed to Wisconsin in the early fifties, and purchased a farm near Columbus, where he lived for a time. There he formed a partnership with William Hazleton, and in 1869 Hazleton & Johnson came to Albert Lea and continued business here for about three years, after which the partnership was dissolved, and from about 1872, Mr. Johnson was in business alone. He was very successful, built up a large business, and made investments in farm lands and city property, but during the latter years of his life was not as active as formerly as his health and age did not permit. At one time he took a prominent part in politics, was for several years a county commissioner, and for a long time served as chairman of the Republican county committee, in which capacity he was a leader of shrewdness and daring. He assisted in many of the noted campaigns of the county and could have written some interesting political reminiscences. At the time of his death, March 25, 1907, Col. Johnson was a director of the First National Bank and a member of the finance committee; a director of the State Bank and a member of the examining committee; and a member of the auditing committee of the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association. He was strictly a financier and prospered exceedingly, but pursued the even tenor of his way and maintained his business principles until the end. The subject of this sketch was married at Newark, Ohio, to Frances R. Preston, and she and three daughters survive him. Mrs. Johnson is one of the active women of Albert Lea, and her influence has ever been for good among her associates. Mr. Johnson was an upright, honest man and achieved his position in the community by perseverance and stick-to-itiveness, two important qualifications for any man to have if he hopes to win out in the battle of life. He devoted all his energies to his business and met with that success which always attends such efforts. He was genial and an admirable conversationalist and delighted to give reminiscences of his early experiences. Thousands will remember him kindly and the family has a heritage of honor, bequeathed by his staunch life and upright character.

**Peter C. Jensen**, a prominent real estate owner of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark, March 11, 1857, son of Christian and Mary (Paulsen) Jensen, who came to America in 1868, located in Pilot





W. W. JOHNSON





Grove township, Faribault county, this state, and lived on a farm twenty-one years. Christian Jensen spent his declining years with his son in Albert Lea, and died July 27, 1894. His wife died Feb. 7, 1892. Peter C. received his earlier education in Denmark and came to America with his parents in 1868. After attending the country schools of Pilot Grove, Faribault county, Minnesota, winters, and working on farms in the summer, he studied one winter in Winnebago City, and in 1874 came to Albert Lea, where he entered the employ of Wedge & Spicer in their drug store. In 1884 he purchased Dr. Wedge's interest, and the firm became Spicer & Jensen. After Mr. Spicer's death, Dr. A. C. Wedge again came into the firm, and Frank A. Barlow also joined the partnership, the company being conducted as Wedge, Jensen & Co. Two years later Mr. Jensen sold out to Wedge & Barlow and started in the drug business in his own building. In 1900 he sold out and retired. He still owns three stores on West Clark street, has erected a pleasant home at the corner of St. Mary and Water street, and spends his time looking after his various real estate and other holdings. He owns 480 acres of farm land in North Dakota, is a stockholder and director in the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea, is a director in the Albert Lea Land Co., and a director in the Madison Valley Land and Stock Co., of Albert Lea, which latter he helped to organize. Mr. Jensen was married Nov. 19, 1899, to Mrs. Laura A. (Smith) Spicer, and they have two children: Catherine June is a graduate of the Albert Lea high school and lives at home. Lucile Marguerite is a student in the Albert Lea high school.

**Gunvold Johnsrud**, a distinguished citizen of Bancroft township, has been active in public affairs for many years. In his township he has been assessor, treasurer and justice of the peace, and has served on his school board for thirty years. He did good service in the legislatures of 1899 and 1901 and in the extra session of 1902. He was also postmaster at Albert Lea for four years. The subject of this sketch was born in Norway, March 31, 1841, and there received part of his education. In 1857 he came to America, and after living three years in Wisconsin, came to Minnesota and located in Hayward township. Feb. 19, 1862, he joined the Union Army by enlisting in Co. H, 1st Battalion, 16th United States Infantry. He was honorably discharged at Look-out Mountain, Tenn., Feb. 19, 1865, and returned to Freeborn county. In 1872 he purchased 160 acres in Bancroft, where he still lives and follows general farming. Being interested in all that pertains to the affairs of the old veterans he has been a prominent worker in Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., of which he was a charter member. He was married June 26, 1866, by the venerable Rev. Torgerson, to Anna Egilsdotter Bosbon, who died



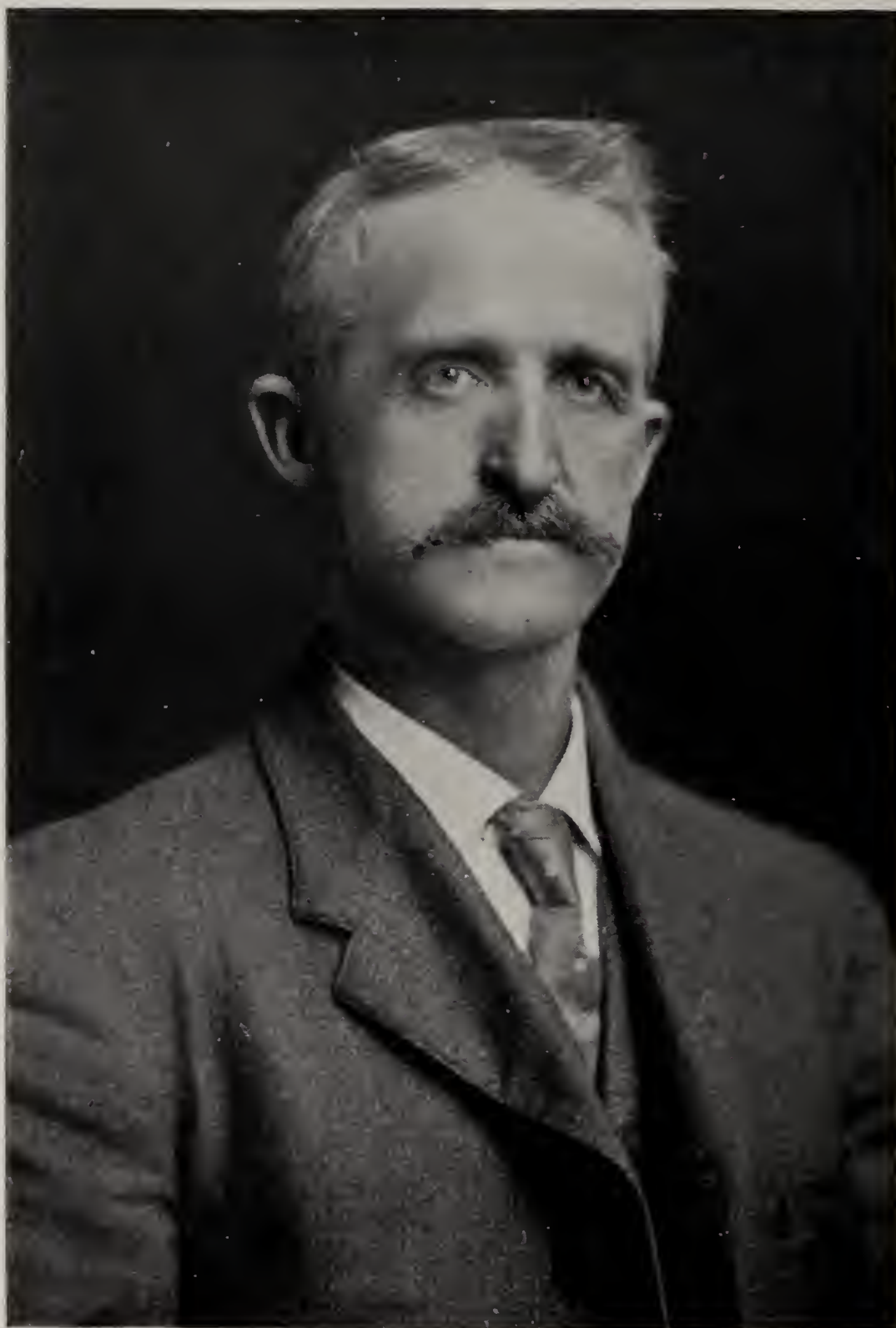
June 12, 1900, leaving eight children, seven living and one dead: Edward Andreas Johnsrud, born Oct. 7, 1867; Gjertrud Rosanna Harrison, Sept. 4, 1869; Gulbrand Johnsrud, Sept. 24, 1871; Karen Hendrix, May 20, 1875; Nora Amanda Jerlow, July 13, 1884; Alma E. Hanson and Elna J. Elias, twins, Dec. 26, 1887. Berthol is dead. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church. In addition to the offices already named Mr. Johnsrud was appointed assistant assessor of revenue on Sept. 30, 1871, and served until the office of assessor was merged with that of collector. Under his jurisdiction was the work in Houston, Mower, Fillmore, Freeborn, Faribault, Martin and Jackson counties.

**D. L. Klove**, the poplar merchant of Gordonsville, was born in Iowa April 13, 1871, son of L. D. and Carrie Klove. They came to this country from Norway, where the father had conducted a mercantile business. In the sixties they located in Decorah, and later moved to Northwood, where the father established a general store which was his chief business interest until 1890, when he sold out and retired. He died in 1898, his wife passed away when their son was but three years old. When a boy Mr. Klove attended school in Iowa, and later completed his education in the University of Wisconsin. For several years after finishing his college course, he was employed at various occupations, such as traveling salesman, bookkeeper and other lines of business interests. He purchased a hardware store in Northwood, Iowa, and here he was associated in business with W. F. Brebner for the year of 1894. After this he sold out and was again employed as a traveling salesman. About one year later he accepted a position with Cook Robinson Company and remained with them for several years, after which he traveled for another company. In 1908 he returned to Gordonsville and here conducts a general mercantile business at the present time. He was married in 1894 to Hanna Haugen, who died a year later. Sept. 29, 1904, he married Lillian Booen, born at Gordonsville, Minnesota, Oct. 7, 1877. Mr. Klove is a member of many fraternities, among them are the M. W. A., Iowa State Traveling Men's Association, and the Minnesota Travelers' Health Association, of New Ulm.

**Soren Jacobson**, who for the past twenty-three years has been secretary of the First Danish Baptist church, of Clarks Grove, is one of the prominent and influential men of Bancroft township. He was born in Denmark May 6, 1852, son of Jacob and Anna (Larson) Nelson, who came to America in 1874 and located in Bancroft township, where they carried on general farming the remainder of their days. Soren, the subject of this sketch, received his early education in the schools of his native land, and was twenty-two years of age when he came to this country with his parents. After his arrival in this county, Mr. Jacobson went to







J. G. JOHNSON



the district school near his father's farm for two winter terms, and being of a studious mind and a deep thinker, he has read and studied a great deal during his busy life and today is one of the well posted and well informed men in the community in which he has resided for so many years. For a period of four years, after reaching Bancroft township, he worked for various farmers, after which he purchased land and began farming for himself. He now owns 198 acres in Bancroft township in sections 10 and 11, a greater portion of which is under cultivation, and the remainder in pasture and timber lands. He carries on general farming together with dairying and specializes in raising grade cattle for dairy purposes, disposing of their milk to the Clark's Grove Creamery. Mr. Jacobson has reached his present prosperous condition by years of hard work and untiring energy, and his home and farm are well improved and the good buildings are an evidence of his skill as a carpenter. In his political views, he votes with the Prohibitionist party. Mr. Jacobson has held the office of member of the school board for fifteen years and his services in this capacity have given general satisfaction. Mary Christianson became his wife in 1878 and they are the parents of nine children, Anna, Hannah, Sara, Adena, Reuben, Alice, Joseph, Jacob, who was killed by a railroad accident, and Joseph, also deceased. In addition to his other interests Mr. Jacobson is a stockholder in the Clark's Grove Mercantile Co.

**John G. Johnson**, a well-known farmer of Riceland, son of George and Kirstie Johnson, first saw the light of day September 29, 1865, on the farm where he now lives. His parents migrated to America from Norway in 1856, first settling in Madison, Wisconsin, and in 1860 coming to Minnesota, where they bought land in Riceland township and here founded their home. The father carried on general farming, improving his property from time to time until his death, which occurred in 1875. His wife died in February, 1911. John G. began his early education by attending the district schools and later he finished a business course in the Wilmer Seminary and Institute at Wilmer, Minn. Then he secured a position as bookkeeper in one of the leading stores at Albert Lea. He returned to the old home in 1889 and purchased it and as opportunity has afforded he has added to it until at present he owns 200 acres. Mr. Johnson conducted general and dairy farming for several years, then rented his farm and went to Albert Lea, where he engaged in the grocery business for three years, after which he returned to his farm and has since built a fine new house here and in many ways improved the place. He owns a fine herd of Holstein cattle, raises Poland China hogs and keeps well-bred horses for farm and driving purposes. Emma Hanson of Bancroft became his wife in 1892 and two children were



born to them. One is Clara Josephine and the other is dead. Mrs. Johnson died in 1895 and in 1898 Mr. Johnson was married to Mary Bell of Riceland. To them five children have been born, three of whom are living, George, Gladys M. and Erna Catherine. Two are dead. Mr. Johnson is a respected member of the Lutheran church and in politics he votes the Republican ticket. He has served on both town and school boards and is stockholder and was manager of Riceland Creamery. He has the confidence of all associated with him in business or social interests.

**James M. Larson** is a worthy example of those men who have left the shores of their native land to seek their fortunes in a new and, to them, strange country. He was born in Denmark, February 12, 1853, and came to America in the fall of 1874, locating at Neenah, Wis., at which place he remained one year. He spent the next two years in Howard county, Iowa, and came from there to Carlston township and secured employment of L. C. Hassett, for whom he worked several months. Observing the customs of the residents of this county and rapidly acquiring their language, Mr. Larson soon decided to assume the responsibility of farming for himself and purchased 160 acres of land in section 29. Here he is still occupied with general farming, making a specialty of raising Holstein cattle of registered stock. Mr. Larson was married to Mary Larsen and this marriage has resulted in four children. Mabel is the wife of Nels P. Nelson and they are the parents of one child, Zola M.; Emma is a teacher in the district schools; Laura N. and Martha are at home. Mr. Larson's home is one of the picturesque residences in Carlston, the house, barns and all buildings having been erected by himself. Three years ago he made a visit to his old home in Denmark, this trip being made possible by the years of hard work in this country which have been crowned with success. He is a member of the Grange and is actively interested in the welfare of the community. He has served as postmaster in the town and as treasurer and director of his school district. He is a stockholder in the Alden Co-operative Creamery, was president of that creamery five years and for nine years did all its shipping. For many years he has been a member of the First Baptist church and a trustee of that organization for a long period. He was also Bible leader a long time and, being a conscientious man, is a staunch supporter of county option.

**Charles F. Leonard**, who is one of the prosperous farmers of Carlston, was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, May 12, 1855. His parents were Carl and Mary Leonard, natives of Germany, who came to Freeborn county, July 4, 1857. When a boy Mr. Leonard attended the district school in Freeborn township and village and was busy during his vacation periods assisting his father with the farm work and fitting himself for a life of useful





J. M. LARSON











J. C. JOHNSON



labor. He now owns the old homestead of 130 acres in Sections 4 and 5 and is carrying on diversified farming together with stock raising and dairying. He has himself erected all the fine buildings on the place. Clara Derby, daughter of Charles and Harriet Derby, became the wife of Mr. Leonard, and their home has been gladdened by the birth of four children, Birda, Pearl, Floyd and Hettie. Birda married Masse Peterson and Pearl is the wife of F. A. Gilmore. Mr. Leonard is a member of the M. W. A. and also of the M. B. A. and is one of Carlston's foremost men. He is now serving his tenth year as school clerk and is a stockholder in the M. W. A. hall in Freeborn village.

**Carl Leonard**, now deceased, was for many years a respected resident of the township of Carlston. He came to the United States from Germany in 1837 and spent some years in Newark, N. J., and also in New York city. He came west in 1848 and located on a farm in Wisconsin and was there engaged in farming for about nine years and then he moved to Minnesota and bought a farm in Manchester. He disposed of this farm in 1872 and purchased land in sections 4 and 5 in Carlston, and here he continued farming until 1883, at which time he rented his farm and retired from active life. For some time after this he made his home with his son Frank in North Dakota and accompanied him to Hanley Falls, where they resided for some time, after which they moved to the village of Freeborn, and it was here that he passed away in 1898. His wife still survives. They were the parents of six children: Jennie, wife of O. S. Gilmore; Elizabeth Denning, of Louisiana; Charles F., of Carlston; Mrs. Samantha Miller, of Freeborn township; Isabelle Ewing, of Boise City, Ia.; and Frank.

**J. C. Johnson**, a prominent farmer of Bath township, was born in Norway, August 2, 1846, son of Christopher and Kari (Prestegard) Johnson, who brought him to America in 1856, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained for four years, after which they came to Minnesota. J. C. received his education in the common schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and cared for the home farm during the time that his father was in the Civil War. Some years later, Mr. Johnson was employed by a raft company on the Mississippi river, after which he located in Wabasha county, this state, and worked on a farm. In 1872 he acquired some land in Bath township and began farming on his own responsibility. He now owns 160 acres, of which 100 are under cultivation, and he devotes much time and attention to raising Shorthorn cattle, general draft horses and Poland-China hogs. He keeps a dairy herd of twenty-four cows and disposes of their milk to the Clark's Grove Creamery. His farm, which is well improved, has been made more valuable and productive each



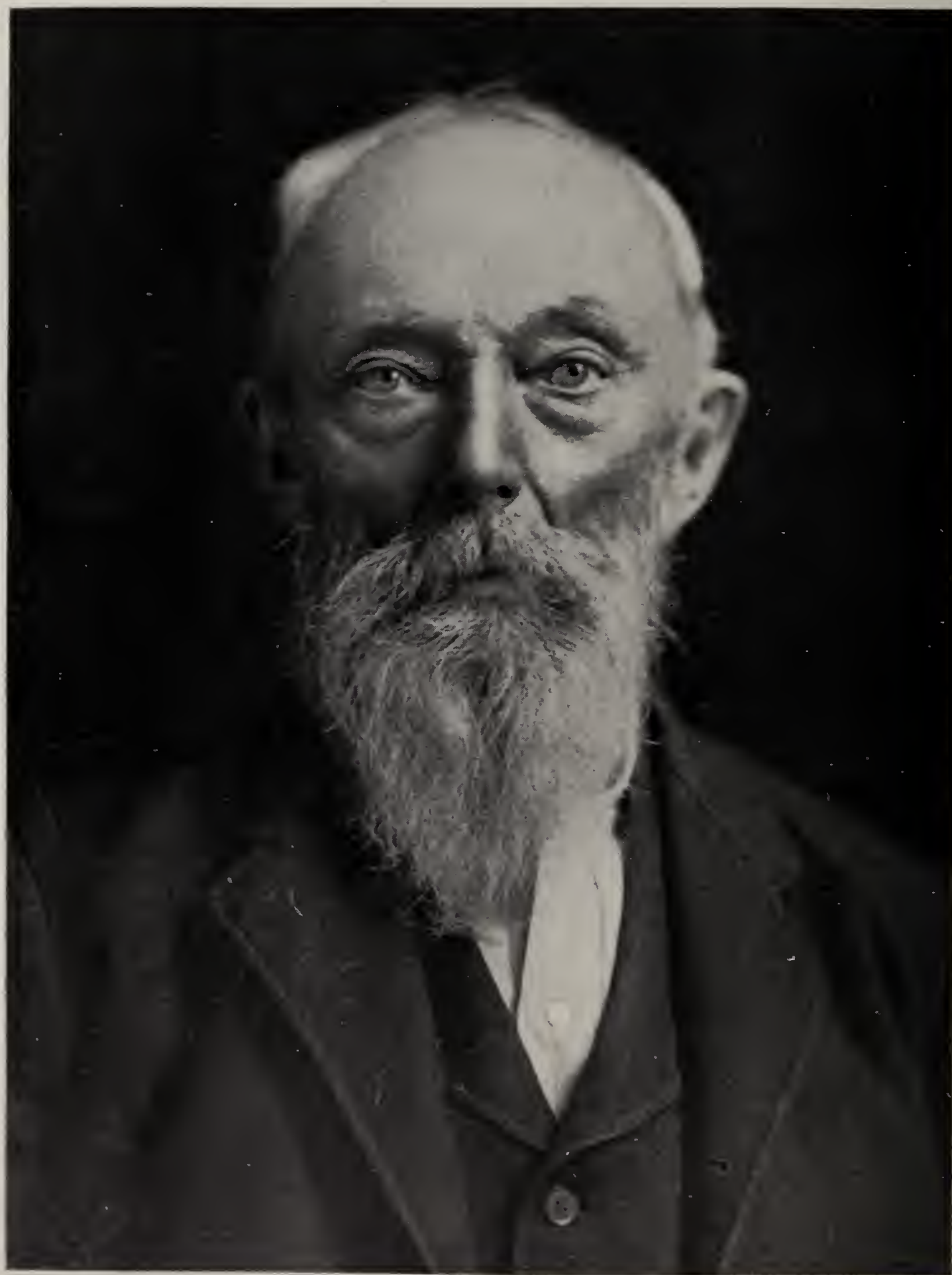
year under the careful management given by its owner, who has attained his present prosperous condition by dint of hard work and self-reliance. In politics Mr. Johnson adheres to the tenets of the Republican party, and he has held many offices of trust and responsibility in the township and county, having served as county commissioner for six years and in the Legislature for one term, in 1907. He has also been town clerk for the past twenty years and been elected to the offices of justice of the peace, town assessor and chairman of the board of supervisors. He is at the present time vice-president of the State Bank of Clark's Grove, and he has held the office of secretary for the Clark's Grove Creamery Association for sixteen years, and to his interest and enthusiasm are due a great deal of the growth and prosperity of the latter organization. Mr. Johnson married Guri Baarsen, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Baarsen, and to them have been born thirteen children, of whom Cora is now Mrs. Martin Tufte; Edna, a teacher in the Luther Academy at Albert Lea; Emma is a teacher, Ada attends Luther Academy, Joseph is clerk of Bath township, Norman is at home; Nora, Karla, Luther, Reuben (assistant cashier of the State Bank of Clark's Grove), Clara and Viola are at home. One is dead.

**Christopher Johnson**, one of the early settlers in this county, now deceased, came to the United States from Norway in 1856, with his wife, Kari (Prestegard) Johnson, and family. They located first in Dane county, Wisconsin, where for four years the father carried on general farming, after which they moved to Bath township, Minnesota, making the trip by means of a team of oxen. Their first home in this county was in a dugout, where they passed one winter, after which Mr. Johnson built a house of logs. At the breaking out of the war between the North and South, Mr. Johnson enlisted in Co. K., 15th Wis. Vol. Inf., on January 1st, 1862. He served his adopted country for three years and four months and was honorably discharged and returned to his farm, where he spent the remainder of his life. The wife and mother passed away in 1863 and Mr. Johnson's death occurred later. To him and wife five children were born: Erick, retired farmer, living in Albert Lea; Mary, now Mrs. John Peterson, of Bath township; John C., a prominent farmer of Bath township; Christopher, living on the old homestead; Ole C., a farmer of Bath township.

**F. E. Baker**, a prosperous Riceland farmer, was born in the township where he still resides, Dec. 29, 1865, son of William H. and Mary E. (Starks) Baker, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. After completing his studies in the country schools, he took courses of instruction at Austin for several years, after which he continued to work on the home farm in company with his father. Later he purchased his present farm of 100 acres







WILLIAM H. BAKER



in section 20, Riceland, and here he carries on general farming, making a specialty of live stock raising, and paying particular attention to high grade Shorthorns, Poland-China hogs and good horses, which latter he keeps for farm work and driving purposes. Mr. Baker votes with the Republican party and has served as treasurer of the town five years. He is a stockholder in the local creamery and telephone companies and in the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was married Dec. 9, 1889, to Stella Ross, a daughter of J. C. Ross, of Albert Lea township. Mrs. Baker died in 1904.

**William H. Baker**, a territorial pioneer of Freeborn county, was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, Sept. 22, 1837. At four years of age he removed with his parents to New York state, and was later taken by them to Illinois, where he received his education and grew to manhood. On July 4, 1857, he came to Freeborn county, and pre-empted 160 acres in Riceland township, section 20. He first lived in a dugout, then in a log cabin and later erected a frame house. He broke all the land and brought the farm to a high degree of cultivation, continuing general farming to the present time and making a specialty of high grade Shorthorn cattle. He was town assessor for some time, town clerk for twelve years and school clerk for several years. Aside from his farm holdings he owns stock in the Riceland Creamery and in the Citizens' National Bank, of Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was married Oct. 20, 1862, to Mary E. Starks, a native of New York state, and they have one son, F. E. Baker, a farmer of Riceland township. The family faith is that of the United Brethren church.

**Ole Larson** is one of the prominent and well-known men in Bath, and as president of the Clarks Grove Creamery and director of this institution he has given general satisfaction to all parties interested. He was born in Denmark, Sept. 5, 1856, and was brought to this country by his parents. When a boy he attended the common schools near his home and during vacation months he helped his father with the many tasks which constitute the daily life of the successful farmer. He remained at home assisting his father until he was twenty-four years old and then he purchased some land and began farming for himself. He now owns 228 acres of valuable land on which he has erected a fine house and all necessary buildings. He raises graded stock and Poland China hogs and carries on general farming with marked success. Hannah Mathiason, daughter of Lars C. Mathiason, of Carlston township, became the wife of Mr. Larson, Oct. 23, 1881, and six children have been born to them: George, Eleanor, Albert, Harry, Nannie and LeRoy. Mr. Larson owes his success in life to

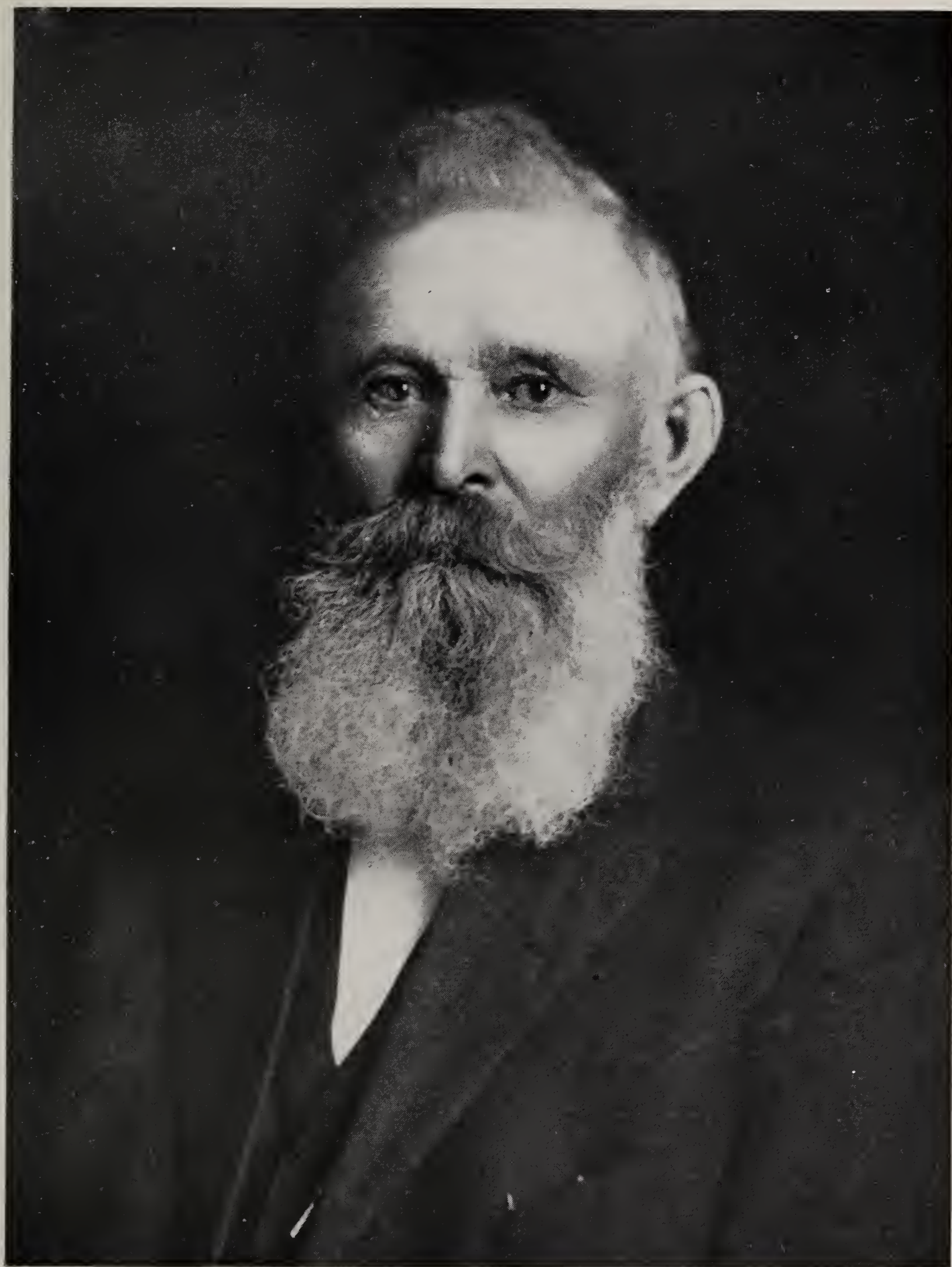


years of hard work and careful management. He is a stockholder in the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea and in the State Bank of Clarks Grove, and a stockholder and director in the Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Co., the Clarks Grove Mercantile Co. and the Clarks Grove Lumber, Fuel & Stock Co.

**Nels Larson**, a pioneer resident of Bath township, now deceased, came to America in 1861 with his wife, Katie (Hansen) Larson. They made their home in Racine, Wis., for the first two years after their arrival in this country, where Mr. Larson engaged in general farming. Feeling that there were greater opportunities offered farther west, he left Racine and came to Minnesota and secured some land and here made his home until summoned by death, Feb. 19, 1901. His widow survives him, still residing on the old home farm. To them were born eight children, of whom Ole, born in Denmark, Sept. 5, 1856, is now one of the prosperous farmers of Bath township.

**J. P. Larson**, a retired farmer residing in Clarks Grove, is one of the leading men in that locality. He first saw the light of day in Denmark, June 18, 1839, and his parents were Lars and Anna Larson. When he was twenty-two years old he left his home in Denmark and came to the United States and settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, where he was employed for the following eight years at farming. He then went to the city of Chicago and worked for fifteen years as a carpenter. At the end of this period he moved to Minnesota and settled in Bath township, purchased land and again became a farmer. He made many improvements on his property and kept the land under cultivation and engaged in general and dairy farming, preferring Shorthorn cattle for that purpose. He disposed of his dairy products to the Clarks Grove Co-operative Creamery, and was a stockholder in this organization and its president for twenty years. He resigned from his position in the creamery in 1909, as his increasing years have made active service impossible. Four years previous to this he left his farm and moved into the village of Clarks Grove. In 1886 he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Christianna Peterson and this marriage has resulted in four children: Edward now has charge of the old home farm, Julius and Lillian are employed by the Skinner, Chamberlain & Co. department store in Albert Lea; Hanna is at home. Politically, Mr. Larson is a member of the Republican party, but he inclines toward the principles endorsed by the Prohibitionists. That his sterling qualities are recognized by his fellow-citizens is shown by his being elected to serve as assessor of the township for fourteen successive years and also by his acting as supervisor for many terms. He has ever taken an active interest in the educational advancement of the township and held an office as member of the school board for thirty-five years. He





J. P. LARSON









J. L. MILLER



is a loyal member of the Danish Baptist church and is now serving in the capacity of chairman and trustee of that organization. Mr. Larson has attained his present high place in the regard and esteem of his community by his conscientious principles and faithful service in all public offices to which he has been elected, and by his unselfishness and generosity. Mr. Larson has ever exerted himself in the interests of the industrial development of his locality, being a great believer in co-operation in all lines of endeavor. He is president of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association of Bath township; president of the Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Co., president of the Clarks Grove Lumber, Fuel & Stock Co.; president of the Clarks Grove Mercantile Co.; stockholder in the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea; stockholder and director in the State Bank of Clarks Grove and stockholder in the American Gas Light & Machine Co. of Albert Lea.

**Martin Mikkelsen** was the first white child born in Bancroft township. His parents, Lars and Dortha (Hendricks) Mikkelsen, came to the United States from Norway and in 1855 settled in Freeborn county, where the first few years of their lives in this country were spent in a rude dugout, in which humble dwelling their son Martin was born, March 10, 1857. The father was a farmer and for some time engaged in hauling wheat to different points by means of a team of oxen. The family alleges that he drew the first load of general merchandise to what is now the city of Albert Lea from Winona. He had an active part in the improvement of the community in which he made his home and entered into rest February, 1898, the mother having passed away two years previous to this time. Martin, the subject of this biography, resides on the old homestead and the log cabin which was his home through the years of his boyhood now forms a part of one of his barns, and the comfortable house which is his residence today was erected by his father late in life. The prosperous condition of the home and farm today is due largely to constant and persevering endeavors. Mr. Mikkelsen owns 120 acres of land and cultivates about one-half of it. He raises Poland China hogs and general purpose horses. His home is situated about three miles from Albert Lea and he is one of the scientific and substantial farmers in the township. Mary Gilbertson, daughter of Gilbert and Martha Gilbertson, became Mrs. Mikkelsen in 1894 and their home has been blessed by the following children: Luther, Agnes, Maude, Emma, Carl, Ida and Elvin M. Politically, Mr. Mikkelsen votes the Republican ticket, but he has never sought public office. He attends the Norwegian Lutheran church of Bancroft, and is a respected member of this organization.

**J. L. Miller** of Gordonsville was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, the son of Peter J. Miller, who was a weaver. The



mother having died when the subject of this biography was only three months of age, the father, in 1866, moved to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where J. L. received his education, attending public schools of Gordonsville. They located in Shell Rock township, where the father bought a farm and where he lived till his death in 1886. The subject of this sketch was born Dec. 8, 1850, and when eighteen years of age rented the farm from his father and in company with his brother, in 1875, bought a farm which they worked in addition to the home place. He followed general farming until 1907, at which time he rented his farm and moved to Gordonsville and assumed the duties of cashier in the Farmers' State Bank, which position he still occupies. In 1875 he married Mary Buchanan, who is a native of Canada, and two children have been born to them, Mabel, who is now Mrs. Reynolds of Shell Rock, and Ben, who is assistant to his father in the bank. Mr. Miller is a member of the M. E. church. He votes with the Republican party and has been a member of the town board fifteen years, as well as a member of school board many years. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. at Albert Lea, Zurah Temple of Minneapolis, the M. W. A., the United Workmen and the Mystic Toilers. He is a stockholder in the Building Association of Gordonsville.

**John L. Melander**, now deceased, was one of the pioneer residents of Carlston township, having come to this place in the spring of 1856. He located on a farm and broke the land and erected some buildings, here establishing a home for the remainder of his life. He carried on a general farming business together with blacksmithing, and his energy and ambition made both enterprises successful. He married Ellen Nelson, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States in 1880, and this union was blessed with five children: Gustave, Carl and Henry M., and Carl and John L., deceased. Henry M. is a successful teacher and the other two sons are at home. Mr. Melander was called to the Great Beyond, Dec. 17, 1909, and his widow resides on the home farm, which is cared for and cultivated by her sons. This farm consists of 186 acres of fertile soil and is situated on the shores of Freeborn lake. Mrs. John L. Melander was born in Sweden, June 15, 1852, and when she was thirty years of age left the land of her birth and came to the United States. Upon reaching this country she came west to Minnesota and secured employment in Carlston township, where she later met and was married to John L. Melander. Her maiden name was Ellen Nelson. Her parents spent their lives in their native land. Mrs. Melander owns a valuable farm of 186 acres, which her sons care for and cultivate. That she is a woman endowed with good sense and excellent judgment is acknowledged by the residents of the locality in which she has made her home



since her marriage. It should be noted in this connection that Mr. Melander was for many years known as John L. Melder, and as such his name appears many times in this history.

**Thomas R. Morgan** is the son of Evan and Winifred (Reese) Morgan, the former of whom was a clergyman. He was born in Wales, August 22, 1834, and came to America in 1838 with his parents, who located in Palmyra, Portage county, Ohio, where the father followed his trade as a hatter and also engaged in farming. The family moved to Union, Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1845, where the father took a pre-emption claim, and the son, Thomas, acquired his early education and grew to manhood. Ten years later, in 1855, they came to the township of Moscow, took a claim of 160 acres and built a log house, in which Thomas R. resides at the present time. He has made many changes in the locality in which he has made his home for so many years, his log house being the center around which has grown the present prosperous home, farm and community. The changes in his home have kept pace with the rapid improvement of the locality, developing from the ten by twelve rude log house with its split log floor to the present home, of which the original house now forms one room. The growth of the home is a parallel with the growth of the boy who built the log house to the elderly man, whose advanced thought is now blazing a trail along which he believes men of the future will travel in the continued upbuilding of a United States for the men of the nation. He has entertained in his home several of the most advanced political thinkers of the day, and while entertaining them he arranges meetings of the people in the community, that his friends and neighbors may profit by the ideas advanced by his distinguished guests. August 28, 1859, he married Felicia Lowry, a daughter of Rev. S. G. Lowry, of Indiana, and to them have been born eight children: Wade is deceased; Winnifred married Jerome Johnson of Elk City, Okla.; Mary is the wife of T. R. Jones and lives in Idaho; Julia and Lowry are deceased; Jane, a former teacher, is now at home; Margaret, an accomplished artist and teacher, died at the age of thirty-two years, in 1910, and one child died in infancy. Mr. Morgan has served on the school board, has been town clerk for many years and has also held the office of justice of the peace. He also organized the school in district 95.

**Ole O. Midthun** is a native of this county, being born in Bancroft township, March 27, 1861, son of Ole and Annie (Olson) Midthun, natives of Norway. The elder Midthuns came to the United States in 1851 and settled first in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived till 1858. In that year they came to Freeborn county, Minnesota, and settled on the land which their son now owns. Buying land for \$1.25 per acre, they began the cultivation of the



soil as best they could with the rude implements, many of them of their own invention, which were the best to be had at that time. For some time they lived in a dugout and later erected and occupied a log house. Here they continued to lead active and useful lives until death. The father died in 1890 and the mother in 1904. Ole O., subject of this biography, was educated in the public schools and on leaving school he at once took up the work of managing the home farm. He has 160 acres of land and most of this is under a high state of cultivation, the remainder being in hay and timber, which are valuable. He has erected a fine dwelling house, large barns and roomy outbuildings, which facilitate the handling of his stock and crops. He gives much time to his dairy herd, which affords him a constant and profitable income. In politics Mr. Midthun is independent. He has been supervisor and chairman of the town and school clerk in his district nine years. He is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Midthun is one of the thoroughly progressive and energetic farmers of the community.

**C. Nielsen**, a prominent citizen of Bancroft township, and for twenty-three years in charge of the Clarks Grove postoffice, which he kept at his home, is a native of Denmark, born April 12, 1837, son of Nels Christiansen and Annie Nelsen, natives of Denmark, who came to this country late in 1863 and located in Bancroft township, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying Sept. 1, 1874, and the mother, Aug. 4, 1895. The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Denmark, and in 1863 came to America, locating for five months in Wisconsin. In October of that year he came to Bancroft and engaged in farming with his parents. After his father's death he took charge of the place for his mother, and after her death came into possession of the place. To the original homestead he has added land by purchase until he now owns 249 1-4 acres, 200 in section 11 and the rest in section 2. Mr. Nielsen has been conspicuously successful as a farmer and is now one of the substantial men of the township, being also a stockholder in the American Gas Machine Co. of Albert Lea. A Prohibitionist in politics, he has been treasurer and director of his school district many years and has also served a considerable time as justice of the peace. Mr. Nielsen was married May 18, 1869, to Henrietta Borgesen, who was born in Denmark, March 25, 1850, and this union has been blessed with thirteen children, of whom nine are living: George W., Annie, Lena, Mary, Minnie, Niels, Emma, Harry and John. The family faith is that of the Danish Baptist church.

**H. C. Nelson**, farmer, banker, political leader and former senator, was born in Norway, June 14, 1848, son of Christopher and Mary Nelson, who came to the United States in 1856 and settled in

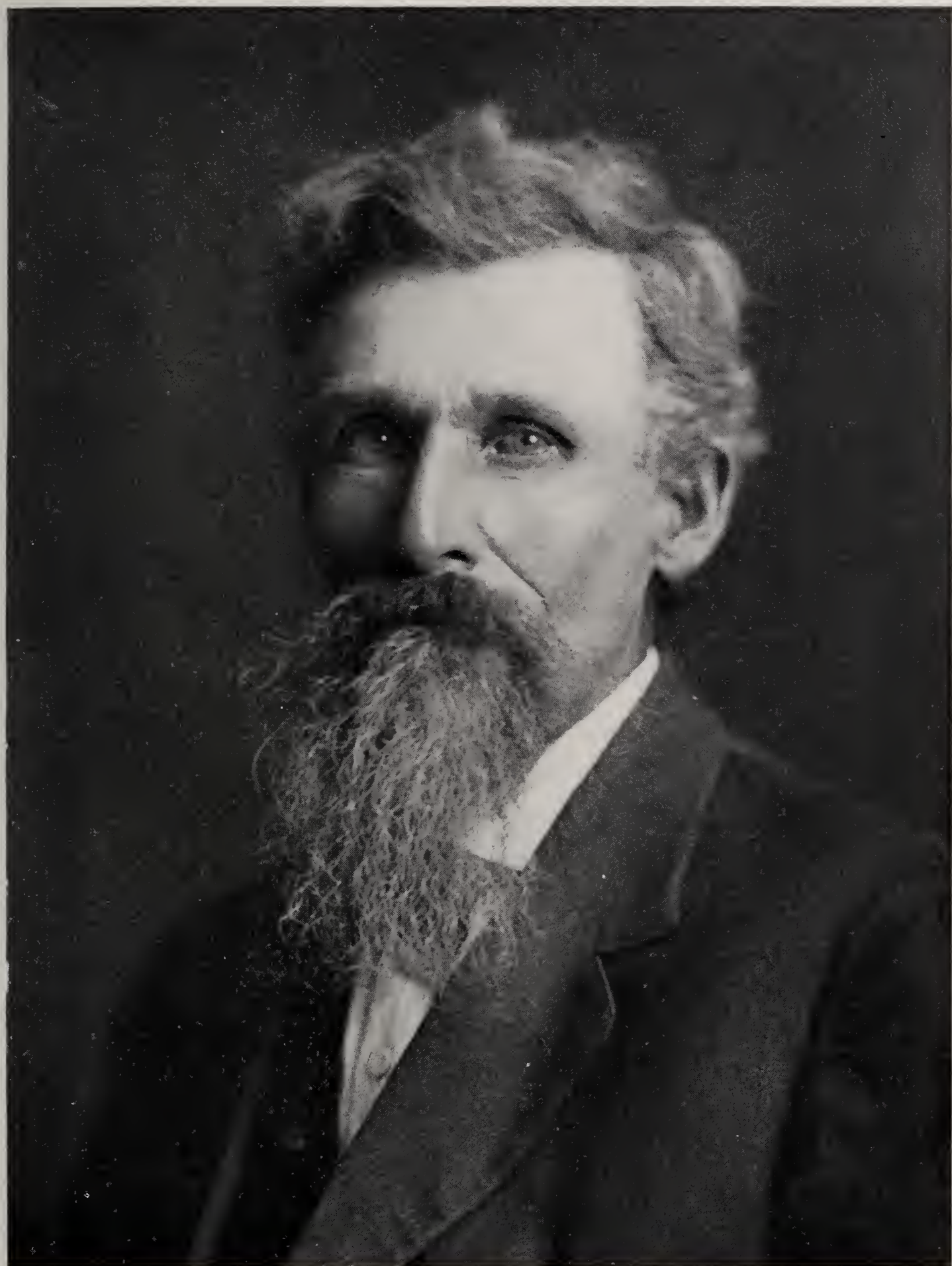




MR. AND MRS. C. NIELSEN







H. C. NELSON





Lafayette county, Wisconsin, where the father worked out and worked a farm for himself until 1861, at which time he came to this county and took up land in section 28, town of Hayward. This was prairie land and he at once set to breaking it and planting crops. He continued farming this land until 1879. In that year he sold his land and moved to Manchester, where he followed general farming until shortly before his death, which occurred in 1889. His wife died in 1910. H. C. Nelson, being only eight years of age when he came to America, received his education in this state after getting started in his studies in Wisconsin. When his school days were over he worked with his father on the home farm. His father enlisted in the 1st Minnesota and while he was absent H. C. conducted the farm and continued to work there till 1868. He later worked on the railroad and ran threshing machines each fall for several years. In 1870 he purchased 160 acres in sections 22 and 27 and so cultivated and improved this land that by following general farming he was able to add to his land from time to time and in 1904 he owned 600 acres, 100 of which is in section 21, where he now resides. He continues farming to the present time and keeps a large herd of good Shorthorn grade cattle. In 1870 he married Caroline Larson, a native of Norway, who died in 1880. To this union were born six children, Clinton Oliver, Minnie, Charles Theodore, Clara Henrietta, Emma J. and William Milton. In 1881 he married Thea M. Larson, a sister of his first wife, and to them have been born ten children, Frederick A., Dora V., Laura, Edgar, Ida, Ruth, Samuel, Esther, Naoma and Constance. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson is a progressive in politics and does not feel that he owes his vote to any one party at all times, and he has voted for principles rather than for party. That he has had good cause for not holding to any party is apparent from the offices to which he has been elected, among which are chairman of the board of supervisors, fifteen years; town clerk, two years; assessor, four years, on the school board fourteen years and senator from this district in the Legislature of 1891 and 1893. He is also president of Farmers' State Bank of Hayward, director of Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea and president of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. of Manchester. Mr. Nelson is widely and well known as a business man of unusual good common sense and with an ability to do the things in the present which prove to be of great good in the future. It is this farsightedness which has given him the position of advisor which he so often is called upon to occupy in his community.

**Mathias Nelson**, now deceased, was born in Norway, where he spent the early years of his life and where he was educated and married. He came to America in 1851, and located in Lafayette



county, Wisconsin, where he carried on general farming until 1858. He then came to Minnesota and settled in Albert Lea township, where he purchased land and followed general farming until summoned by death, Aug. 25, 1893. His wife, whose maiden name was Agnes Rood, died in 1898. Their son, C. M. Nelson, is now a prosperous farmer of Shell Rock township.

**C. M. Nelson**, an extensive land owner and prosperous farmer of Shell Rock, was born in Albert Lea township, July 23, 1858, son of Mathias and Agnes (Rood) Nelson. His education was acquired in the public schools of Freeborn county. At the age of twenty-one he purchased 120 acres of the home farm in section 25, Albert Lea township, and by hard labor and untiring effort, combined with intelligence and economy, in time added to his property until he owned 200 acres, upon which he erected modern buildings and made many improvements. Mr. Nelson continued farming on this place until 1903, when he moved to the city to look after his extensive business and real estate interests. In 1908 he determined to again become an agriculturist, and accordingly took up his residence on his fine farm of 260 acres in section 6, Shell Rock township, where he now resides. He is now one of the successful and scientific farmers of the county, and his prosperity is due solely to his own industry and ability. In addition to 500 acres of good farm land in Freeborn county, Mr. Nelson owns buildings occupying half a block on one of Albert Lea's principal streets, including the modern factory of the Albert Lea Gas Light Co., and all the structures east of that to the alley. He is a stockholder in the Co-operative Creamery, the Citizens' State Bank and the Acorn Brick & Tile Co., all of Glenville. Although Mr. Nelson's business and agricultural life has been a busy one, he has nevertheless found time to hold various town offices of responsibility, being elected on the Republican ticket, to the platform of which party he staunchly adheres. The subject of this sketch was married Oct. 4, 1888, to Mattie Frydenlund, who has always proved a faithful and capable helpmeet, loyal to home and family. This union has been blessed with three children, Mabel A., Conrad A. and Arnold V., all at home. The family attends the Lutheran church.

**C. T. Nelson** was born in Hayward township, August 8, 1875, son of H. C. Nelson. He received his early education in the district school near his home and later in life attended the Luther Academy. After completing his schooling he purchased 120 acres of land in section 27, and assumed entire charge of it, carrying on a general farming business. He later disposed of this property and bought eighty acres in section 22, and here has since made his home, adding eighty acres more in section 15, thus making 160 acres in his farm. He does general and dairy farming and raises





MR. AND MRS. C. M. NELSON





many Poland China hogs and is one of the successful farmers in the community. He has made many improvements on his farm and built a new barn and cultivates about 100 acres of his land. In 1904 he married Ingeborg Skaar, daughter of G. C. Skaar, of Hayward. He is a Democrat in political opinions and his religion is the teachings of the Lutheran church. He has served in many of the responsible offices in the township, having been elected chairman of the town board in 1910 and the following year served as director of the school board. He has been a member of the school board and is a director and stockholder in the Hayward Creamery. A man of good judgment and integrity, Mr. Nelson is held in high esteem by the residents of the community in which is his home. He served as state boiler inspector under Governor Johnson during Johnson's first term.

**Emil Nelson**, one of the earliest settlers of the county, was born in Urskoug, Norway, Oct. 25, 1851. He came to America with his parents, Lars and Anna Nelson, who settled in Bath township and there reared their family of five children. Ole is now employed as buttermaker at Northfield; Julia is the wife of Peter Baardson; Lena is engaged in the millinery business in Ellendale, and Anna married James Logeson. Emil, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest of the family. He has followed farming for the greater share of his life, starting for himself at twenty-four years of age, and now has under cultivation about one-half of his 160 acres. Martha Jordahl of Sogen, Norway, became his wife in 1876 and to them have been born five children. Thorena is a teacher, Joseph and Louise are at home, Mabel is a teacher and Clara is the wife of Louis Ackland. Mr. Nelson has devoted his life to his home and family and never mingled in politics to any extent, but votes with the Republican party. He attends the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he has long been a member. He is a stockholder in the Manchester Creamery, of which he was secretary one term. He has also served as school director.

**Thomas Ellwood Noble** was born at Marquette, Green Lake county, Wisconsin, Dec. 30, 1856, son of John H. and Emma Lyon Noble, early pioneers. He acquired his education in the county schools of Marquette and Kingston, and for six years after leaving school was employed on a farm. In 1882 he went to Iowa, remaining there two years, and on March 1, 1885, he came to Freeborn county and located in Manchester township. Here Mr. Noble rented the George B. Chamberlain farm, which he worked until 1898, and then purchased 158 1-2 acres of the same farm, located in section 26, Manchester. He remodeled the buildings, cultivated and improved the land and engaged in general and dairy farming, making a specialty of raising graded Jersey cattle. In 1906 Mr. Noble moved to North Albert Lea, where he



made his home until May, 1911, when he moved into Albert Lea. He purchased a home at 616 West Clark street and there resides at the present time. Mr. Noble's time is occupied with home and farm interests, assisting in the agricultural department of the local high school. In political activities Mr. Noble has adhered to the views of the Prohibition party, and he was elected to serve in the State Legislature in 1907 and again in 1909 on the Prohibition platform, being one of the three first men of that party to serve as legislators in Minnesota. He has held township and school district offices, always taking an interest and participating in matters pertaining to the public welfare. He is a stockholder in the Manchester State Bank and also in the Manchester Creamery and for several years was a director of the latter organization. In 1910 he was elected to be the first president of the Minnesota State Corn Growers' Association, of which he is one of the charter members, and was re-elected in 1911. He is an attendant of the Baptist church and a contributor to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the M. W. A. Mr. Noble married Dora Chamberlain, daughter of George B. and Emily Skiff Chamberlain, on April 23, 1885, and their one son, William, formerly a student at the University of Minnesota, now occupies a position with Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., in Albert Lea.

**John H. Noble**, born April 15, 1832, was a native of New York state. In 1846 he moved to Marquette, Wis., and settled in Green Lake county, where he acquired some land and engaged in general farming. He later met and married Emma Lyon, who came to Wisconsin in the early forties with her parents from Dutchess county, New York, and settled in what is now Lyons, Wis. Emma Noble died on March 24, 1864, leaving a family of four children, two girls, Emma and Harriet, having died in infancy. Of the four, Ellwood resides in Albert Lea; Josephine married Lewis Phillips of Clarks county, Wisconsin; Judson L. lives in Fairwater, Wis.; Lucy died at Bristol, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1905. Mr. Noble had by a second marriage two more sons, Samuel, of Fairwater, Wis., and Carleton, of Kingston, Wis. Mr. Noble died July 30, 1903, survived by his third wife, Eunice Gardner Noble, who now resides at Bristol, N. Y.

**George B. Chamberlain** was born Nov. 22, 1820, in Palmer, Hamden, Mass. In his early youth he moved with his parents to Cattaraugus county, New York, where, in March, 1855, he was married to Emily Skiff. They settled on a farm in Ellicottville, where to them were born Ella M., now Mrs. Charles Fellows of Albert Lea; Denna M., who died in infancy, and Dora E., now Mrs. Ellwood Noble, Albert Lea. In the fall of 1859 they moved to Lyons, Wis., where they spent the winter with the parents of Mrs. Chamberlain. The spring of 1860 they came overland with



horses and wagons to Manchester, Freeborn county, occupying the home built in section 26 by Smith S. Skiff. This was the first house built in the township, it being built in the summer of 1856. Later they moved on to their own farm, adjoining, where they resided until April, 1885, when Mr. Chamberlain rented the farm to T. E. Noble. In this home their son, William G. Chamberlain, now of Albert Lea, was born. They returned to permanently reside with T. E. Noble's family in the fall of 1903, moving with them to Albert Lea, where Mr. Chamberlain died on May 2, 1907. Mrs. Chamberlain survived him till Dec. 19, 1909, when at the age of seventy-seven, she, too, passed away.

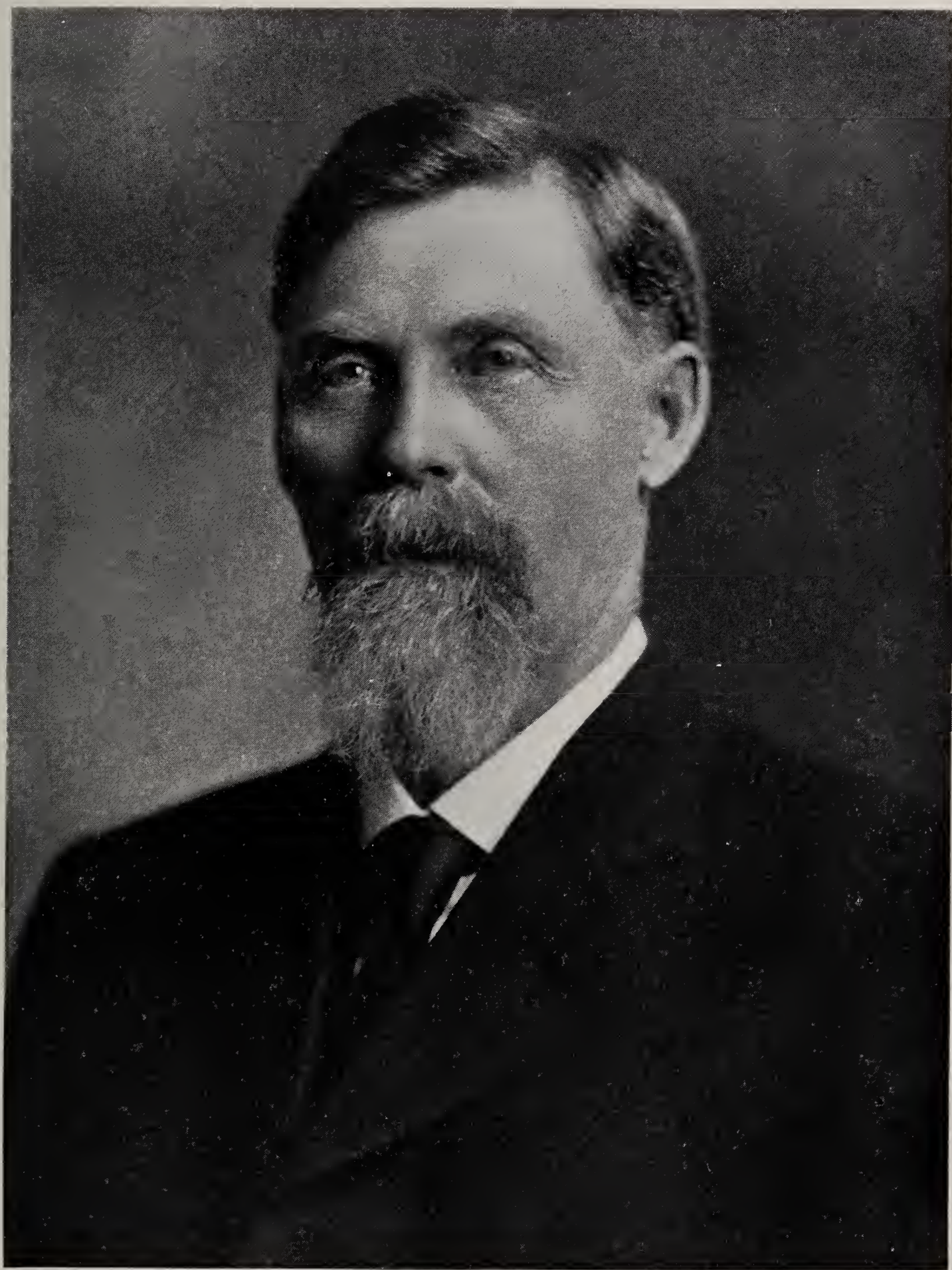
**Mrs. George B. Chamberlain.** Emily Skiff, daughter of Stephen and Mehettable Skiff, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, on March 29, 1832. She was one of a family of seven daughters and four sons. In young womanhood she came with her parents to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where she spent a number of years before returning to her native state on a visit. There on March 18, 1855, she was married to George B. Chamberlain. They settled upon his farm in Ellicotville, N. Y., where three daughters were born to them: Ella M., now Mrs. C. R. Fellows; Dora E., now Mrs. T. Ellwood Noble, both of Albert Lea, and Demia, dying in infancy. In the fall of 1859 they decided to try their fortunes in what was then the "Far West," taking with them horses and wagons with which to convey themselves and a small quantity of household goods. The first stage of the journey was via the Great Lakes to Wisconsin. After passing the winter at Lyons they resumed their journey in the spring with the horses and covered wagon. Their objective point was Manchester, Minn., where two of Mrs. Chamberlain's brothers, Benjamin and Smith Skiff, had previously secured land, the latter having built the first log house in the township of Manchester in the year 1856. This house is, at the time of publication, still standing at its original location on Section 26. To this home Mr. Chamberlain came, securing adjoining land, upon which they lived for the next quarter of a century. Here was born a son, William G., now of the firm of Skinner, Chamberlain & Co., of Albert Lea. In the meanwhile acquaintances and relatives had been coming to Freeborn county and establishing homes. Among these was the family of E. K. Pickett, whose wife, Philina Skiff Pickett, was a sister of Mrs. Chamberlain. With the courage and cheerfulness of youth these early settlers endured privations, overcame difficulties, and shared with each other their joys and sorrows. In the year 1885 Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain rented their Manchester farm and purchased a home near Albert Lea. They continued to live in and near Albert Lea for the rest of their lives. Mrs. Chamberlain, upon leaving the farm, was enabled to devote a



greater part of her time to church work. She was a devout member of the First Baptist Church of Albert Lea and loyally followed it through its various vicissitudes, living to see it in its new home and in a flourishing condition. She also was a strong advocate of temperance principles, being a member of the Albert Lea Woman's Christian Temperance Union for many years. During the last years of her life she made her home with her daughter, Mrs. T. E. Noble. Mr. Chamberlain died in May, 1907, and Mrs. Chamberlain, in her 78th year, passed away December 19, 1909. At the close of a most useful life we have this tribute paid her: "Mrs. Chamberlain was a sterling character and was a Christian in its truest sense in every walk of life."

**William N. Nelson**, extensive land owner and retired farmer, now residing in Albert Lea, was born in Wiota, La Fayette county, Wisconsin, Sept. 14, 1855, son of Even and Johannah (Christianson) Nelson, pioneers of 1858. William N. was brought to Minnesota in 1858, and was reared to manhood in Albert Lea township, receiving his early education in the schools of district 54. In 1878 he purchased a farm of 160 acres in section 13, Freeman township, the tract now being known as the "Dick Windt place." Through hard work and by untiring efforts, Mr. Nelson forged ahead, and with the years attained great prosperity. He acquired extensive holdings, developed and improved several tracts of land, erected suitable buildings, and conducted agricultural operations in a modern manner on a large scale, becoming one of the substantial men of the county. He was a fancier of black Poll-Angus cattle and Poland China hogs, and for twenty years bought, raised, fed and shipped cattle to the markets, more particularly to Chicago, his annual business in this line amounting to something like \$100,000.00. In the fall of 1876 he and C. Rood purchased a threshing outfit, which they operated several autumns. Being interested so greatly in cattle, it was but natural that he was interested in organizing the first creamery at Glenville and became one of its directors. During the period of his agricultural and live stock operations, Mr. Nelson made his home on the family farm in Albert Lea township, and upon retiring in 1905, left his son, Maynard J., on the place, thus making a continuous occupancy of the farm by the Nelson family since 1858. Aside from farming, Mr. Nelson has interested himself in real estate. At the present time he owns 4000 acres of land, including 700 acres in Freeborn county, considerable territory in Murray county, this state, where he first acquired land in 1894, and also large tracts in Montana, Texas and North Dakota. He is also interested in the Albert Lea Land Co. and the Madison Valley Land & Stock Co., both of Albert Lea. These companies he helped organize and is serving them as president. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank,





WILLIAM N. NELSON







MRS. WILLIAM N. NELSON





of Albert Lea; the Freeborn County State Bank, of Albert Lea, and the Glenville State Bank, of Glenville. Since 1890 he has been a third owner, with his brothers, C. E. and J. E., in the Nelson Bros. department store in Albert Lea. While in the country Mr. Nelson served honorably in many school and township offices. He was on the town board and has the distinction of serving a quarter of a century on the school board of district 54, which school he attended as a boy. In 1905, the subject of this sketch retired from farm work and moved to a pleasant home which he erected on Fourth street, Albert Lea. Here he and his wife live in well-deserved retirement, although Mr. Nelson is still actively engaged in looking after his various properties. It has been said of Mr. Nelson that he started in life by driving an ox team, on the farm for his father, and has now reached the stage where he drives a fine White Steamer automobile for himself. William N. Nelson and Emma B. Haug, who was born at Wiotia, Wis., Dec. 3, 1858, were married May 24, 1877, and this union has been blessed with four children. Edgar H. lives in Shell Rock township; Maynard J. works on the old home farm; Wilda L. is a student in St. Olaf college, Northfield, and Elmer P. is doing well in the Albert Lea schools. The family faith is that of the Norwegian United Lutheran church.

**Even Nelson** (deceased) was born in Norway and came to America in 1853. Shortly after his arrival in this country he married Johannah Christiansen and they located in LaFayette county, Wisconsin, where he followed his trade as shoemaker. In 1858 they moved to Freeborn county and located on section 36, Albert Lea township. There he acquired a quarter section, erected a log house and started breaking the land. He continued to follow general farming, gradually improved his place, built a frame house and suitable barns, and went through all the hardships incident to pioneer life. As opportunity afforded, he increased his holdings and at one time owned considerable tracts of land. In 1877 he left the home place in charge of his son, William N., and moved to another farm, where he passed the remainder of his life. To himself and wife, Johannah, five children were born, of whom William N. resides in Albert Lea; Amelia married M. P. Johnson, now deceased; C. E. and J. E. are merchants in Albert Lea, their firm being known as the Nelson Brothers, and Julia married Erick Ramsey of Park River, N. D. Some years after the death of Mrs. Johannah Nelson, Mr. Nelson married Anna Olson of Wiotia, Wis., this marriage taking place May 17, 1878. To them a family of seven children were born: Eva, the wife of Edward Storvick, of Albert Lea; Ida, now Mrs. John Abba, of St. Paul; Archie, of Albert Lea; Mabel, Chester, Guy and Edward, at home. Mr. Nelson



passed away Nov. 6, 1909, and his widow resides on the home farm near Albert Lea, in Albert Lea township.

**Ed. Open**, the successful farmer of section 15, Riceland, is a native of Norway and was born Oct. 1, 1866, son of Nels and Ellen Open, who lived their lives in the old country. Mr. Open received his education before coming to the United States in 1881. He first worked out by the month three years after he came here, mostly on farms. In 1884 he went to South Dakota, where he followed railroading seven years. Tiring of this work, he came to Freeborn county and bought 145 acres in sections 15 and 22, and has so well succeeded that he now has 190 acres. This success has been achieved by general and dairy farming, followed in an industrious manner. In 1889 he married Ingeborg Ramsey of Iowa and to them has been born one child, Ella. Mr. Open is a member of the Lutheran church and for several years was one of the directors of the Lutheran parochial school of Riceland. In politics he is a Republican and has been elected to both school and town boards. For over five years he has been treasurer of the Riceland Creamery, is a stockholder in the local telephone company and has served as supervisor on the town board. Mr. Open is one of the men of whom it may be truly said that he is a self-made man of sturdy character.

**Nicholas Ott** was born in Switzerland, Nov. 30, 1857, son of Nicholas and Margaret (Urfer) Ott. He came to the United States with his parents in 1858 and located near LaCrosse, Wis., where he later attended school. When he was twelve years old the family moved to Albert Lea township and here he attended the public schools. After completing his education he engaged in farming and now owns 220 acres of land, part of which is in Pickerel Lake township and part in Albert Lea township. He keeps a high grade of Shorthorn cattle and raises many Poland-China and Berkshire hogs which yield him a substantial income. He disposes of his dairy products to the Co-operative Creamery, of which he is a stockholder. He has made many improvements on his farm and his well-built and comfortable home is one of the landmarks in that locality. He married Carrie Jeklin in 1882 and they are the parents of four children: Robert, who married Emma Lembke; Cyrus, Willis and Corenia. Mr. Ott's abilities have been recognized by his fellow-citizens to the extent that they have elected him to the office of treasurer of school district 102 for twelve consecutive years. He has also been supervisor of the township in the past, serving in these offices with common sense and excellent judgment. He affiliates with the Prohibition party and is a member of the M. W. A. Camp, 835, of Albert Lea. Mr. Ott owes his present prosperous condition to his own hard work and farsightedness, retaining through the years the respect and good will of



all with whom he has had to deal. Mr. Ott is a stockholder and has been a director in the Emmons Mutual Telephone Association.

**Nicholas Ott, Sr.**, and his wife came from Switzerland to this country in 1858 and settled near LaCrosse, Wis., where he followed the occupation of farming. They remained near LaCrosse eleven years, after which they moved to Minnesota and located in Albert Lea township, and here spent the remainder of their lives. To them were born six children: Margaret, Mary, Mattie, Nicholas; John and Lydia are deceased. Mr. Ott died in 1881 and his wife a few years previous to that time. When the Otts first came here they erected a log cabin and lived there for a time until a comfortable home was later erected. Nicholas Ott, Sr., purchased 320 acres in the early days, but later disposed of a part of it.

**Ole Peterson**, a prominent citizen of Hayward township, has held many offices of trust and honor in that town, among which are a member of the board of supervisors, in which capacity he has served for the past seven years, and member of the school board, serving here for five years. He was born in Norway, July 18, 1862, and came with his parents to America when he was eighteen years old. They settled in Albert Lea, where they established a home and resided until the end of their lives. The father passed away in 1890 and his widow survived him but a year. Ole, the subject of this sketch, began his early education in the schools of his native land and completed it in the schools of Hayward, after which he began railroad work for the B. C., R. & N., which he followed for a period of sixteen years, the last eight years being car inspector. Later he bought eighty acres in section 19, town of Hayward, and rented additional land and here conducts general and dairy farming, together with stock raising. He prefers the Holstein-Fresian breed of cattle for dairy purposes and raises Poland China hogs to supply the ever-increasing demands of the markets. Betsy Hanson, of Norwegian parentage, married Mr. Peterson in November, 1888, and they have three children: Oscar, Gyda and Philip. Mr. Peterson is a member of the Lutheran church and contributes liberally to its support. He also belongs to the Order of United Workmen and in politics votes independently. He is a stockholder in the Hayward Creamery and a man whose good judgment is respected by his fellow-citizens.

**William P. Pickle**, one of the oldest settlers of Freeborn county, was born in Onandaga county, New York, Dec. 31, 1834. When he was two years old, his parents moved near Marshall, Mich. He spent his time on a farm and in a select school in Dane county, Wisconsin, until he was eighteen years old. He then was apprenticed to the blacksmith trade at the Upton Mfg. Co. at Battle Creek, Mich. He worked at his trade until 1857, at which time he



crossed the plains in a prairie schooner drawn by four yoke of oxen. He mined gold at Pike's Peak and Leadville. Buffalo were then plentiful and he hunted and killed a large number, also was engaged in many Indian fights. He shod the first government mules that carried the mail across the plains from Fort Kearney, Neb. In 1859 he returned east and located in Freeman township, this county, until 1862, at which time he enlisted in Co. A, 21st Iowa Vol. Inf., in response to the call for volunteers to quell the rebellion. He saw active service and fought at Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Black River Bridge and the Siege of Vicksburg. In January of 1864, while at Vicksburg, he was sun-stricken and had the brain fever, from which he never entirely recovered. He was promoted to corporal and transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. He was mustered out April 7, 1865. After the war he resided for one year with his father in Hartland township, and on May 27, 1865, he married Mary L. Kraushaar. He returned to Freeborn county and bought 160 acres of land in Nunda, where he lived until 1888, at which time he moved to Albert Lea and engaged in the well and windmill business. In 1890 he started a general store at Clover. A year later he again moved to the farm, where he resided until 1898, at which time he moved to Albert Lea and retired from active work. On Aug. 18, 1905, he passed out of this life and now lies at rest in the cemetery near the German Lutheran church, near Clover. His widow and their five children: Lillian Nelson, Fargo, N. D.; Walter H., Edwall, Wash.; Martin E., Detroit, Mich.; Etta Jones, Clover, Minn., and Ralph H., Albert Lea, Minn., still survive him. Mr. Pickle served in various town and school offices and was held in high esteem. He was a member of the local Masonic lodge.

**Ralph H. Pickle** of the American Gas Machine Co., of Albert Lea, was born in Nunda township, this county, Jan. 11, 1880, son of William P. and Mary L. (Kraushaar) Pickle. He received his education in the public schools of this county and the Iowa City Commercial College and the Irish Business University of Iowa City, Iowa. He began work in the office of the Sharp Mfg. Co. shortly upon completion of his school work, which he continued until the spring of 1904. At that time he engaged as a traveling salesman in specialty lines until 1907, at which time he engaged with the American Gas Machine Co., jobbing their product, with headquarters at Des Moines, Ia. He discontinued his office during 1909 and traveled direct from headquarters at Albert Lea until Dec. 1, 1910, at which time he assumed charge of the shipping and stock departments for the above company. Aside from his regular vocation, Mr. Pickle makes a special study of agriculture, which he carries on on his farm in Itasca. He is one of the pioneers in the raising of alfalfa in this county, and believes it will



soon be as common as clover. He has been especially successful in the raising of potatoes, having secured large yields of fine quality tubers. Mr. Pickle votes independently and belongs to the U. C. T. and K. O. T. M. lodges. He was married Jan. 24, 1904, to Nellie E. Lawson, daughter of Lawrence and Hannah (Nelson) Lawson, of Boone, Ia., and this union has been blessed with three children: Virginia, Manford and Ramona.

**W. C. Peck** was born in New London, Huron county, Ohio, April 6, 1832, son of Harris and Martha (Stimpson) Peck, natives of New York, who in 1831 moved to Ohio, where they lived until 1858, during which year they moved to Minnesota and located in Albert Lea. The elder Peck was here engaged in the furniture business until the time of his death. W. C., the subject of this biography, attended school in Ohio and completed his education in the Painesville high school. After leaving school he took up the work of carpentry, which he followed until he came west in 1854, first locating in Rockford, Ill., and later in Peoria. In 1861, Mr. Peck came to Albert Lea and was employed at carpentry with his father until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in Co. F, 4th Minn. Vol. Inf., and served three years. He was honorably discharged at Madison, Wis., in 1864, after which he returned to Albert Lea and again took up his carpentry work. In 1872 Mr. Peck went to Chicago, working for an agricultural machine company, and in this occupation he remained until 1882, when he resigned and came again to Albert Lea, where he resumed his old trade. In 1905 he retired from an active life and is living in his home near the city. He is a Socialist and has progressive views. He belongs to the Robson Post, G. A. R., and is a highly-esteemed citizen. On Feb. 25, 1854, Sarah A. Green, of Painesville, O., became his wife, and their marriage has resulted in the birth of two children, Frank G., a wood manufacturer, of Chicago, and Maude M., who lives at home.

**A. C. Paulson**, the well-known and popular banker of Alden, was born in Chicago, Ill., May 25, 1872, son of Paul Carlson and Anne Nelson, the former of whom was lost in the great fire of Chicago. In later years the mother married Ole Paulson and they reside in Martin county, Minnesota. When a boy, Mr. Paulson laid the foundation for his future success in life by close application to his studies. After completing his education he went to Chicago, where he secured employment and received good business training. He returned to Martin county in 1906 and went to work in the bank in Conger, Minn., as cashier, being immediately put in charge of the bank. Three years later he accepted the position of cashier in the Security State Bank of Alden, where he is employed at the present time. Annie Olson became his wife on Jan. 23, 1895, and to them one child was born, Arthur, which



cost the mother her life. On Feb. 28, 1905, Mr. Paulson married Myrtle Brown, a daughter of R. N. and Anna Brown, and this marriage has been blessed by the birth of a daughter, Lois G. Mr. Paulson favors the ideas advanced by the Republican party and attends divine worship at the Presbyterian church, of which he is a loyal and respected member. He is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and in every respect one of the public-spirited and progressive citizens of Alden, his success in life being due to his just and conscientious dealings with his fellow-men.

**Hans Peterson**, who has served his fellow-citizens by acting as chairman of the board of supervisors one term, supervisor several terms and member of the school board for the past twenty-seven years, is one of the influential men of Carlston township. He was born in Denmark, April 27, 1861, and came to the United States six years later with his parents, who located in Illinois, where they remained three months. They moved from there to Freeborn county, Minnesota, in 1867, and settled in Carlston, where the father built a small house, broke the land and prepared to follow the occupation of farming. Hans, the son, was educated in the log school house near his home, and during vacation months helped his father with the farm work. Octavia Svendsen became his wife and their home was blessed by the arrival of six children: Hjalmar, Jens, Victor, Guy, Nora and Hulda. Mr. Peterson owns a valuable farm comprising 200 acres in sections 9 and 16, and here conducts general farming, keeping a large percentage of his land under cultivation. His father is dead and his mother makes her home with her son at the age of four score and four years. In addition to his other interests he is a stockholder in the Alden Co-operative Creamery.

**Isaac W. McReynolds**, affectionately known as "Father" McReynolds, was an important factor in the early life of Albert Lea. His deep religious convictions, his rugged piety, his common sense and his benignant disposition, all combined to make a man of rare personality. His influence and that of a few others of strong religious faith did much toward making early Albert Lea a law-abiding and God-fearing community and prevented much of the lawlessness usually associated with the beginning of pioneer communities. Isaac W. McReynolds was born in South Carolina, Feb. 4, 1806. In 1816 he moved with his parents to Jefferson county, Indiana, where they resided on a farm three years. In 1827 Isaac McReynolds moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, and there engaged in mining and farming until 1856, in the meantime participating in the Black Hawk war and taking part in the battle of Bad Axe. In 1856 he came to Freeborn county and lived the first year with William Kellar, at the same time proving up a claim of



160 acres, one mile west of the Freeborn county courthouse, in Albert Lea township. He brought his family here the next year. Father McReynolds broke and developed his farm land and erected a log house (still preserved) and suitable outbuildings, and carried on general farming until failing health prevented a continuation of this work. In connection with this he preached and presided at funerals, as a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal denomination. At an early date he sold a part of his farm for a nominal sum, to an association of Albert Lea citizens, and the beautiful Albert Lea cemetery now occupies the site. When he was ready to retire, he deeded his farm to his son Frank, but continued to reside on the home farm until his death, Feb. 18, 1899. The subject of this sketch was married in 1834 to Nancy Sparks, a native of Tennessee, born June 7, 1808. Mrs. McReynolds was a fitting companion for her noble husband, assisting and encouraging him in all his endeavors, and cheering the hardships of a pioneer home with Christian fortitude and sweet womanly love. She died Feb. 16, 1892, and went to her grave sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds were the parents of eight children: Margaret and Sarah are twins, the former being married and living in Albert Lea, and the latter being dead. The next children were Jane, Henry, Mary, Franklin M., all deceased, an infant who died before being named and Frances E. (Nielsen), who now owns and occupies the old homestead.

**Franklin M. McReynolds**, now deceased, a veteran of the Civil War, and for many years an honored resident of Albert Lea township, was born in Wisconsin in 1840, son of Isaac McReynolds and Nancy Sparks McReynolds. He came to Freeborn county in 1857 with his mother and other members of the family, his father having located here in 1856. He grew to manhood on the McReynolds farm, one mile west of the city of Albert Lea, and for several years taught school in various districts in this county. In 1861 he enlisted in Co. C, 5th Minn. Vol. Inf., and served until honorably discharged for ill health, doing excellent valiant service against the Sioux during the Indian campaign. After a well-spent life devoted largely to farming, Mr. McReynolds passed away, Jan. 18, 1893, his funeral being conducted by the G. A. R. and by the Masonic order, in both of which he was a prominent member. At the time of his death the Freeborn County Standard said: "Mr. McReynolds was in every respect a valuable citizen, always upholding everything that was best in the community. He never married, but leaves a host of friends to mourn his death, his illness having extended over a period of seven years. His father was the first minister of the Methodist faith that resided here and Franklin M. was ever a consistent follower of that faith."



**Frances E. Nielsen** (McReynolds) was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, September 23, 1845, daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Sparks) McReynolds. She came to Minnesota with her mother in 1857, her father having located here the previous year. Here she grew to womanhood and has always remained on the home farm, faithfully caring for her parents, her brother and her husband during their last days, and at the same time conducting the household affairs with ability and economy. She was married April 18, 1889, to Lewis Nielsen, who was born in Denmark, February 9, 1862. Mr. Nielsen attended the schools of his native country, there grew to manhood, and at the age of twenty, in 1882, came to America, locating in Freeborn county. He was employed in various places for a short time and then secured employment on the McReynolds' farm. Here friendship ripened into courtship, and he was married in due time to the daughter of the house. For several years before his death he managed and conducted the old McReynolds' homestead and made many improvements, erecting a fine home, a large barn, and necessary outbuildings, being in a prosperous and successful condition when death called him, July 10, 1909. After coming here he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and served as steward and trustee of the local congregation until the time of his death. He was also a stockholder in the Albert Lea Creamery. Since his death Mrs. Nielsen has continued to live on the home place, renting her land. Like her parents, her brother and her husband Mrs. Nielsen is a devout Methodist and is interested in every good work.

**Fred S. Ruble**, a successful and prosperous farmer who resides in Pickerel Lake township, was born in that township on November 20, 1865, son of John and Henrietta Ruble, the pioneers. The subject of this biography was educated in the district school near his home and later completed his studies in Albert Lea, after which he engaged in general farming, working with his father on the home place. In 1890 he started farming on his own responsibility, purchasing 200 acres of the old homestead located in sections 12 and 13. Here Mr. Ruble erected all the buildings and made many improvements, his barn being considered one of the finest in the county. As time has passed and prosperity made it possible, Mr. Ruble has added forty acres to his original farm, making a total of 240, all of which are under a high state of cultivation. He makes a specialty of raising pure bred cattle of the Holstein-Fresian variety, having forty head of registered stock, which have taken many prizes at state and county fairs. He is a prominent member of the Holstein-Fresian Breeders' Association of America. Mr. Ruble is a supporter of the principles of the Republican party and, being of a fraternal disposition, he has allied himself with the M. W. A. He has been selected to serve as



a member of the town board for several years, and he is now one of the directors of school district 39. On May 27, 1890, Parthena M. Converse became his wife. She is a daughter of J. H. Converse, one of the early pioneers in the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Ruble four children have been born, Albert F., Blanche, Helen M. and Clifford A.

**Henry Ruble** and Mary E. Simonds, his wife, were the parents of George S. Ruble, the founder of Albert Lea, and John Ruble, one of the earliest pioneers of Pickerel Lake township. The founder of the Ruble family in America came from Hanover, Germany, about 1730, and settled in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. His name was Peter. To him were born four sons, Christian, Peter, Abraham and Mathias. The latter settled in the east end of the Kishocoquillas valley several years prior to the Revolution, and he also had four sons, Peter, Michael, John and Henry. The latter married Mary E. Simonds, of York county, Pennsylvania, and to them were born four sons, all natives of the above named valley. These sons were Simon, George S., Henry and John. The combined weight of these four brothers before the war was 1,265 pounds, and their combined height was twenty-four feet and ten inches.

**John Ruble**, one of the earliest pioneers of Freeborn county, and for many years one of the leading citizens of Pickerel Lake, was born in the Kishacoquillas valley, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1827, son of Henry and Mary E. (Simonds) Ruble, of German ancestry. At the age of two years he was taken by his parents to Wayne county, Ohio, and there grew to manhood. He was married August 20, 1849, to Henrietta Fleck, born March 17, 1830, in Saxony, Germany, and removed to Rock county, Wisconsin, settling on a farm there three miles west of the city of Beloit. In 1856 he sold out his interests there and joined his brother, George S. in Freeborn county. He took a quarter section about three miles from Albert Lea in Pickerel Lake township, and in time added to his original preemption until he owned some six hundred acres. At an early day he commenced the sale of agricultural implements, and maintained warerooms and an office in this city. John Rubel died Aug. 27, 1884, and his wife passed away March 24, 1891.

**George S. Ruble**, the founder of Albert Lea, was born in Kishocoquillas Valley, Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1822, son of Henry and Mary E. (Simonds) Ruble. In 1829 he was taken by his parents to Green township, Wayne County, Ohio, and there he grew to manhood, receiving but little schooling. On February 1, 1849, he married Elethea Humphrey, and removed to Rock county, Wisconsin, settling on a farm three miles west of the city of Beloit, where he engaged in farming and stock



raising. In 1855 he sold out his interests in Wisconsin and came to Albert Lea, being the second settler on the town site. His part in the building of the city is told elsewhere. When the Civil War broke out he was among the first to respond to his country's call. He raised and became captain of Company H, of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, was mustered in December 5, 1862; spent the winter with his company in barracks at Fort Ridgley, and accompanied General Sibley in his expedition against the Indians across the plains of Dakota in the summer following. He was mustered out at the expiration of his term of service, November 24, 1863. In 1864 he re-entered the army as senior first lieutenant of Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and went South with that organization. He was commander of the fort, on Cameron Hill, at Chattanooga, Tenn., and from there was transferred to Charleston, Tenn., and placed in command of Fort Bishop. He was mustered out of the service July 5, 1865, at the close of the war, after which he returned to Albert Lea. While in the South he had become impressed with the opportunity for business development at Chattanooga, Tenn., and decided to locate there, which he did in 1866. He opened business in the agricultural implement line and continued for a period of twelve years. He moved his family there in 1868, and built a house on Lookout Mountain, called "Ruble's Cottage Home." This he conducted as a hotel for twelve years, and it became a famous resort well known all over the South for good fare and genial hospitality. In 1871 his warehouse with all its contents was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of over \$50,000.00. The Cottage Home was sold, Captain Ruble having returned to Albert Lea. His health began to fail on account of disease contracted from exposure while in the army, and he died July 2, 1886, and was buried in the family burying ground at Beloit, Wis., where his wife, who died February 6, 1892, is also buried. In many respects Captain Ruble was a remarkable man; of large and powerful physique, with a fine and commanding figure; he was a man of great force of will, of indomitable energy and perseverance. He stood six feet two and one-half inches in height, and his weight was 275 pounds, and all his brothers were like him—large men. In politics Captain Ruble was a Republican, but was not an active partisan. He was appointed the first sheriff of Freeborn county. He was a charter member of the Western Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and was one of the first Knights Templar in the State. He left two children—Charles Newton Ruble, now deceased, and Mrs. T. P. Greene, of Shelbyville, Tenn. Another child, Simon, died in infancy.

**Charles H. Ruble**, one of the leading and representative farmers of Pickerel Lake township, was born in Beloit, Wis., July



13, 1852, son of John and Henrietta (Fleck) Ruble, the pioneers, who brought him to Pickerel Lake township in April, 1856, where he received his education, and has since continued to reside, engaging in farming pursuits. He now owns 100 acres in section 11, where his home is located, and 260 acres in sections 1 and 2. Like his father before him, he has been prominent in town affairs. He is a Prohibitionist in politics, has served as town clerk and assessor to his own credit and to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, and at the present time is treasurer of school district 39. The subject of this sketch was married, November 29, 1881, to Eliza Heising, and this union has been blessed with four children: Harry E., of Albert Lea; John D., who conducts his father's farm in sections 1 and 2, Pickerel Lake township; Lanetta V., now Mrs. F. C. Hill, of Albert Lea township; and Edna, who is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. The family faith is that of the Presbyterian church.

**P. O. Rosenberg**, a prosperous farmer of Hayward township, was born in Norway, July 17, 1862. In 1881 he came to America with his parents, Agnat and Mathias Rosenberg, and located in Hayward township, where the father purchased eighty acres of land and here he carried on general farming until his death in 1902. The mother still resides on the old homestead. The subject of this biography was educated in the schools in Norway, and, having completed his work in them, he started out for himself when he reached this country and purchased forty acres of land in Hayward township, section 32. To this he has added from time to time as opportunity afforded and he now has 360 acres, with over 250 acres under cultivation. On his farm Mr. Rosenberg has made all improvements except building the house. He does general and dairy farming and keeps a herd of grade cattle. He also raises Poland china and chester white hogs. In 1891 Sene Monson, a native of Norway, became his wife, and this marriage has been blessed with five children: Arthur M., Chester M., Pearl Sophia, Odin C. and Russell M. Mr. Rosenberg upholds the tenents of the Republican party, has held various offices in his township and has served a number of years as director of school board. He is one of the stockholders in the Glenville Creamery.

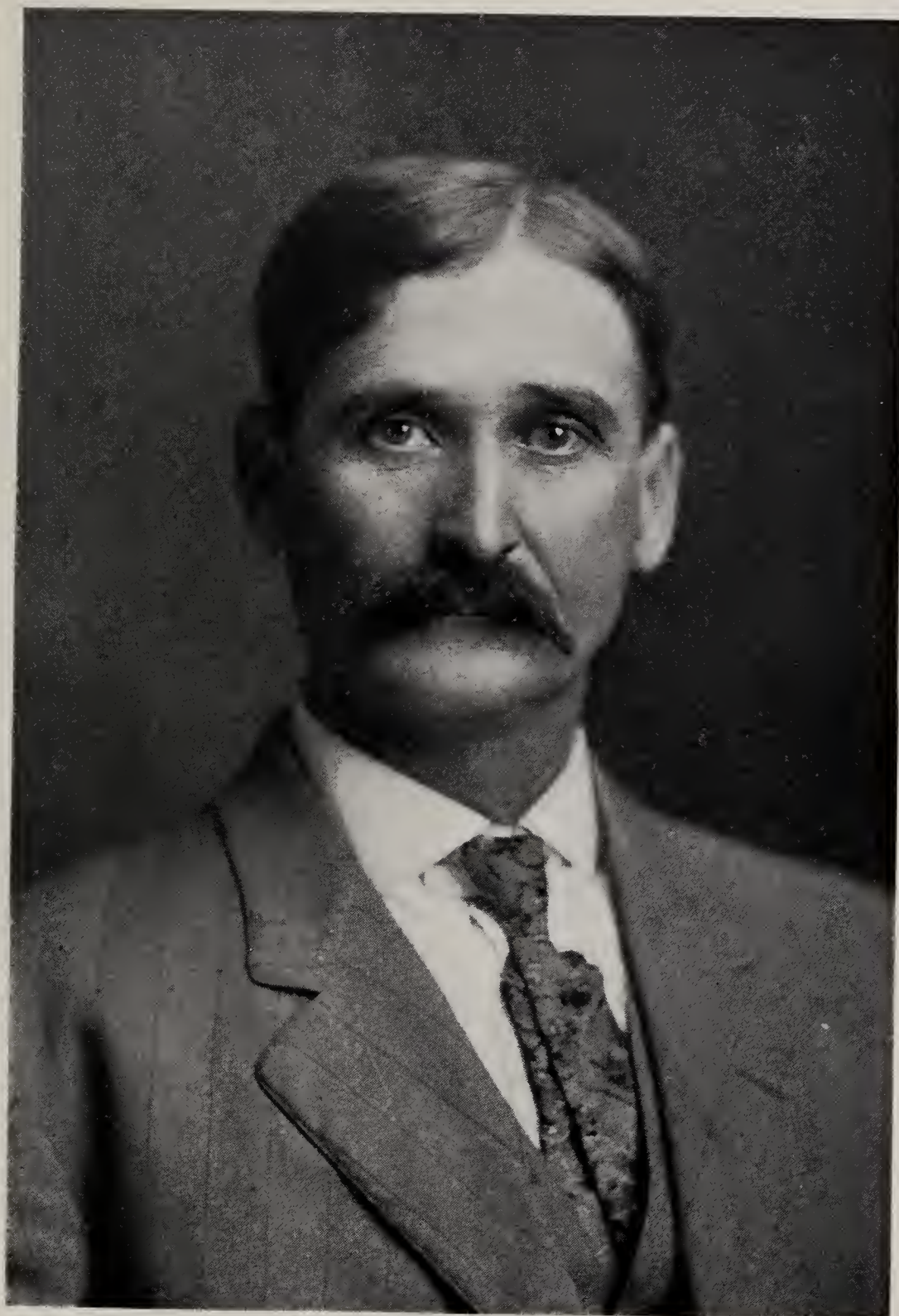
**Iver H. Rofshus** was born in Norway, January 16, 1850. He came to America with his parents when he was but nine years old, and for about a year after reaching this country they lived in Dane county, Wisconsin, after which they moved to Minnesota and settled in Bancroft. Here they purchased a farm and spent the remainder of their lives; the mother's death occuring in 1889 and the father's five years later. Iver H., their son, took charge of the farm as he grew older and at the present time resides here,



carrying on diversified and dairy farming. He disposes of his dairy products to the Riceland Co-Operative Creamery, of which he is a stockholder, and for six years was a director. Carrie Olson, daughter of Ole and Terena Olson, both deceased, became the wife of Mr. Rofshus in 1876, and they are the parents of nine children: Annie, Tilda, Helen, Olave, Sophia, Martin, Irwin and Hazel, and Henry, who is dead. Mr. Rofshus has 119 acres of land. In political ideas he adheres to those advanced by the Republican party, but his careful attention to the betterment of his home and farm have prevented his seeking public office. His genial manner, together with his excellent judgment, have won the regard of the community in which he resides.

**N. H. Rasmusson**, banker, was born in Freeborn county, Nunda township, April 7, 1868, son of Hogan and Christi (Nelson) Rasmusson, who came to the United States in 1857 and settled in Wisconsin, where they remained but one year. Many of their friends from Norway were settling in Freeborn county, and in 1858 they came here and bought 160 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre in Nunda, where they followed general farming. It was here they lived until 1908, and here their children, Christina, N. H., Albert, Isabell, George, Betsy, Andrew, Hanna and Tilda grew up. In 1908 the father died; the mother now lives in Emmons. The subject of this biography was born April 7, 1868, and grew to manhood attending the local schools, the St. Ansgar Academy, and working on his father's farm. After completing his school work he taught two years. It was while teaching that he became interested in telegraphy, to which he zealously applied himself and in a short time became well versed in this work. He worked in various stations in Wisconsin and later was assigned to the station at Norman, Iowa, which was the railroad station for Emmons at that time. He was so well suited to this work that he followed it in the same position over nine years. Appreciating that the opportunity for advancement in this line is somewhat remote he resigned and became assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Emmons in 1902. He was later made cashier and has since occupied that position. The bank under his management has steadily increased in business and risen in the estimate of the public, and today has a high place in the regard of the people of northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. In 1894 Mr. Rasmusson married Gurine Nelson, daughter of Nels and Carrie Nelson, natives of Norway, who located in Nunda in 1859. They here followed farming and reared their family. The mother died in 1907; the father still lives in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Rasmusson have been born two children, Cora and Hattie. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Lutheran church. He is with the Republican party in politics, but gives



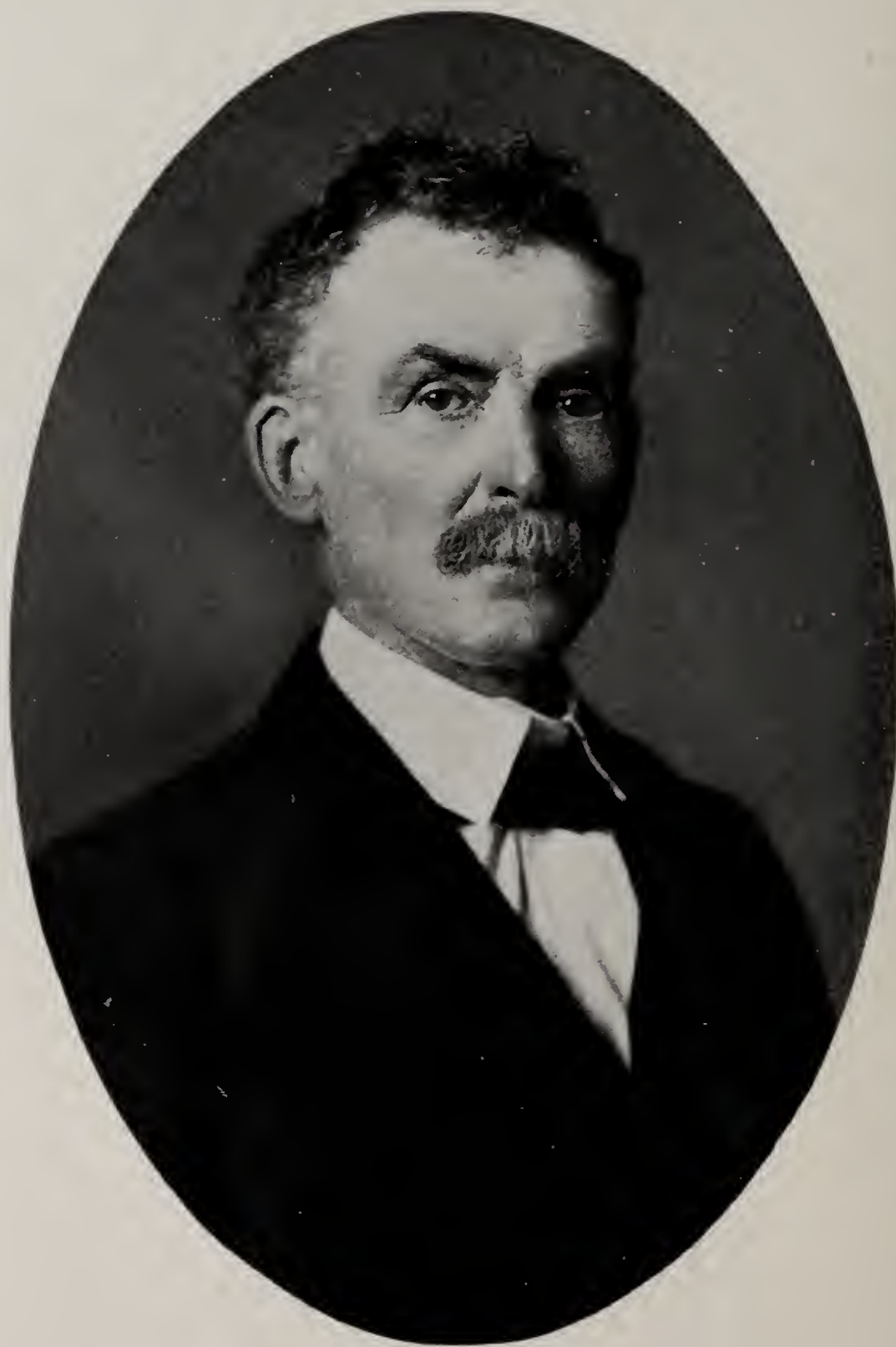


N. H. RASMUSSEN









CHARLES SCOVILLE .



but little time to political affairs. Being socially inclined, he has accepted invitations to join several fraternities, among which are A. O. U. W., M. W. A., M. B. A., L. P. O. E., Sons of Norway and the Masonic order.

**L. T. Scott**, who has been prominently identified in the growth and development of the village of Freeborn, was born in Wyoming county, New York, June 16, 1830. His parents were W. E. and Eliza (Fuller) Scott, who spent their lives on a farm in New York. L. T. received his schooling in his native state and came west to Minnesota in 1856. He homesteaded land in section 26, Freeborn township, and cut logs with which he built a house. He and his wife, Marian Purdie, also a native of New York, endured great hardships and privations, but with the courage of the early pioneers, they struggled against all difficulties and year by year toiled and prospered. The nearest market to which Mr. Scott could sell his grain was at Hastings, and to make this trip required six days by ox team. At times he sold his grain for only 35 cents a bushel. To Mr. and Mrs. Scott six children were born: George F., who was the second white child born in the township; Agnes M., married to Fineus S. Howard; Nettie, the wife of George P. Lattin; Larinda, married to Albert T. Schoen; Peter P. and John G. For forty years Mr. Scott was engaged in general farming interests. He retired from active life in 1896 and moved into the village of Freeborn. He is the president and a director of the First State Bank of Freeborn, and was one of the founders of this institution. He has held many prominent offices in the town, among which are chairman of the board of supervisors, which office he occupied for seventeen years. He was the first postmaster in the town and erected the first hotel, in which was opened the first general store in Freeborn village. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and Eastern Star lodge of Albert Lea and took his first degree in 1861. A public spirited citizen, Mr. Scott is held in respect and admiration by his associates and venerated by the younger generations.

**Charles Scoville**, an esteemed resident of the village of Freeborn and a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Onondago county, New York, June 27, 1841, son of Lemuel and Eleanore (Reese) Scoville. His father was a native of Connecticut, who moved to New York in the early forties, where he followed the occupation of farming, and in 1858 he came west to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn township, where he spent the remainder of his days. Charles, the son, remained in his home state until the breaking out of the war, and then he enlisted in Company F, Twenty-sixth New York Vol. Inf. He served his enlistment of two years and was honorably discharged, coming to Minnesota in 1863. Here he homesteaded land in section 13, Freeborn town-



ship, and carried on general farming for two years, after which he again enlisted to fight for his country, this time in Company A, Ninth U. S. Veteran Volunteers. One year later he returned to Minnesota and resumed his labors on the farm, which he continued until 1884, when he moved into Freeborn village. Mr. Scoville married Ann Ball, daughter of John and Charlotte (Smith) Ball, the former of whom was a native of Vermont and a stonemason by trade. To Mr. and Mrs. Scoville eight children were born: Charlotte is the wife of Rev. P. H. Fisk, Nina is now Mrs. Page Guthrie, Grace married John Luther, Herbert M. married Mary Stoddart, Bertha married Ansel Gilmore and they are the parents of one boy, Gordon. Donald, the youngest child, was a graduate of the Albert Lea high school, and a young man universally beloved, died in early manhood. Two died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Scoville's daughters were school teachers and the family is one of which they are justly proud. For thirteen years Mr. Scoville was a mail carrier between Hartland and Freeborn and during his service in this capacity he never missed a day's duty, but was busy in all kinds of weather and never faltered in his task. He is a member of the G. A. R. and adjutant of Ash Post, No. 98, of Alden. He is also a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Freeborn. For eight years he was constable in Freeborn township.

**Lester Vandercook Spicer**, born in Erie county, Ohio, March 10, 1837, was the oldest son of Isaac Gamble Spicer, of Fort Ann, N. Y. (a descendant of early Connecticut pioneers), and Cornelia Francis Vandercook, born at Pittstown, N. Y., of Dutch-Patroon ancestry. At an early age he went to Oregon, where he was engaged in mining and lumbering at Salem and Joseph. Returning to Ohio, he conducted a hardware store, and in 1865 moved with his mother and younger brother to Fulton, Mo. In 1870 he came to Albert Lea. He was married April 18, 1872, at Fulton, Mo., to Laura Ann Smith. Mrs. Spicer is the oldest daughter of James Henry Smith and Elizabeth Marshall Duggins, of Bedford and Nelson counties, Virginia. In 1872 Mr. Spicer entered a partnership with Dr. A. C. Wedge in the Corner Drug Store, which business he continued until his death. Having purchased 270 acres of wild timber land he converted it into one of the best stock farms in southern Minnesota and in doing so was one of the first to introduce blooded short-horn cattle in Freeborn county. Mr. Spicer was killed November 29, 1884, by one of his blooded bulls near the present Floral Fair grounds, which was then the west part of his farm. He was the father of five children: Irene, who died December 30, 1899; Cora Francis, who married Bert E. Ross and lives at Pasadena, Cal.; Emma Vandercook, who married







MR. AND MRS. JAMES SORENSON (LAH)



Alfred E. Au lives at La Crosse, Wis.; Lester Wedge and John Lovely. His widow still resides in Albert Lea.

**Lester Wedge Spicer**, of the firm of Barlow & Spicer, druggists and stationers, was born in Albert Lea, October 20, 1876, son of Lester Vandercook and Laura Ann (Smith) Spicer. He was reared in the city of his birth, attending public school and graduating from the high school in 1895. In 1897 he graduated from the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota, and in 1899 became junior member of the present firm. Mr. Spicer is an independent voter and has served as county coroner. He is a member of several fraternal orders. The subject of this sketch was married March 10, 1909, at Wooster, Ohio, to Elizabeth Newberry Beebe, born July 20, 1878, daughter of William O. and Fanny Allyn (Sill) Beebe, of Wooster, formerly of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Mrs. Spicer is a graduate of Wooster University. To this union has been born one daughter, Margery Elizabeth, born June 29, 1910.

**James Sorenson (Lah)**, a veteran of the Civil War, who lives on section 35, Nunda, is a native of Norway, born June 9, 1839. His father was Sorenson Lah, who died in 1888. The subject of this biography came to America with his parents and settled first in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked out by the month for farmers of that locality for three years. He then went to Worth county, Iowa, and took a pre-emption of 160 acres with his father and worked this land till the first call for troops, in August, 1862. He enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Vol. Inf., which command was organized under the direction of Captain A. B. Miller. This company took part in the engagements at Vicksburg, Yellow Bayou, Pleasant Hill, Alexandria, Red River campaign, Nashville, the fighting in and around Mobile and Montgomery, as well as many minor engagements. In August, 1865, he received his discharge in Clarksville, Iowa. When he returned home he bought eighty acres in section 35, Nunda, where he now owns 120 acres, and also 126 acres just south of this in Iowa. He has also started his children with land for farming. The log house which is at present his home is the one which he constructed in the sixties, and is one of the few remaining log houses which have not been sided over. On March 12, 1867, Mr. Sorenson married Mary Olson, a native of Norway, who came to Iowa with her parents and experienced all the hardships incident to the life of the pioneer girls during the war period. When laborers were hard to find during the war years she earned from one to two dollars per day doing a man's work on nearby farms. This sturdy old couple has reared a family of twelve children: Julia Sophia, married Asley Larson, of Nunda; Jensena Christiana, married Edward Brewer, of Worth county,

*Elizabeth Beebe (Beebe) Spicer Nov. 27 - 1957  
Cremated Hannu-ridge*

*Children of  
Margery Spicer  
Dr. Don R. Michael*

*Virginia Ann Michael  
b. July 8, 1943  
Data Spicer Michael  
3 Sept. 2, 1944  
Died Michael, Mich.  
Oct. 14, 1957*

*Grand Dr. Dr. Michael Mich 7 - 1942 - Died Michael, Mich.*



Iowa; Sam, married Louise Loberg; Clara Marie, married Thoaten Flaten, of Nunda; Olena Frederica, married Ole Larson. Ole Johan is at home, as are also Emma Matia and James, who married Betsy Brewer. Betsy Magina married Henry Hanson. Anna Louisa, Mary Josephine and Ole are deceased. The Sorenson family attends the Lutheran church. Mr. Sorenson is a Republican in politics and has been town supervisor many years and member of school board in district 72 over forty years. He is a member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R.

**Peter Larsen**, representative farmer of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark, October 16, 1865, son of Lars and Anna Larsen. His father died in 1873, and the mother is now living in Riceland township, this county. Peter, the subject of this biography, was educated in Denmark and he came to America in 1882, locating in Riceland township. For a period of ten years Mr. Larsen worked at farming in Riceland, after which he came to Albert Lea, where he was employed until 1907, then renting Dr. A. H. Street's farm, which he is caring for and cultivating at present. In 1908, Mr. Larsen purchased eighty acres in section 21, Albert Lea township, and he works this in connection with Dr. Street's property. Politically Mr. Larsen votes independently and he has never sought public office. He married Mary Christiansen on May 13, 1895, and they are the parents of six children, Laily, Ruth, Lyman, Harold, Wendel and Acton. The family attend the Lutheran church.

**Dr. Avalin H. Street** has been a prominent citizen of Albert Lea for many years. He was born in Orleans county, New York, on April 29, 1833, son of Chapin and Dolly (Ness) Street, the former of whom passed away in Illinois, and the latter in New York. Avalin, the subject of this biography, commenced his education in the public schools of Orleans county, subsequently attending the academies at Albion and Kerryville, N. Y. Later he graduated in dentistry and medicine in his native state and practiced dentistry in the East until thirty-six years of age, when he decided to try his fortunes in Minnesota. Accordingly in 1869 he came to Freeborn county, and opened a dental office in Albert Lea. For a time he also practiced medicine. Retiring eventually from public life, Dr. Street bought a farm comprising a half section located in Alden, and there he made his home for several years, after which he returned to Albert Lea and purchased the John G. Godley farm of 295 acres, on which he resides at the present time. This farm is located about two miles out of the city, and, though seventy-eight years old, Dr. Street walks into Albert Lea nearly every day. He still owns the farm in Alden but rents it. He has served as justice of the peace in the past, and he has even been a public spirited man. He has left an







MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. SCHOEN



endowment of \$10,000 to the Albert Lea College, this to be made available after his death.

**T. O. Selstad**, who has been supervisor of the town of Bancroft for the past twelve years, is one of the prominent men in his community. He was born in Bancroft, June 30, 1862, son of Ole and Aasne Selstad. His early boyhood was spent on the home farm assisting his father and making himself generally useful. He received his education in the country school near his home and later in life began farming on his own responsibility, an occupation which he has followed since and in which his efforts have been crowned with success. He owns 120 acres of land and raises Holstein cattle, does a profitable dairying business and stock raising. He also raises a good grade of hogs for which he finds ready market. The fine, substantial house in which Mr. Selstad now lives was built by him and he also has made many improvements on the other buildings belonging to him, and has erected a silo. He was married to Christina Overland June 24, 1889. He is a respected member of the Lutheran church and is its treasurer. He is a Republican in politics, but has independent views. As a member of the school board he has shown his interest in educational lines and, in fact, Mr. Selstad is in sympathy with all movements which are for the advancement of humanity in general. He is a stockholder and director in the Lerdal Telephone Company, having served as its manager.

Ole Selstad was born in Norway and migrated to the United States in 1858. He settled in Wisconsin for about two years, after which he came to Bancroft and purchased a farm and made his permanent home and here reared his family. To himself and wife, Aasne, were born seven children, Ole O., Matilda, Halvor, Ida, T. O., Annie and Edna. Mr. Selstad entered into rest in 1888 and his widow survived him for five years.

**John A. Schoen**, deceased, was for many years a citizen of Albert Lea. He was a native of Germany, having been born in that country January 2, 1829, son of Otto and Mary Schoen. The subject of this biography grew to manhood, was educated in the land of his birth, and when twenty-three years of age, left his old home and crossed the ocean to America. Upon his arrival in this country, Mr. Schoen located in New York and engaged in gardening on the Hudson river, where he carried on this line of business until 1858, when he disposed of his interests and came to Minnesota. He settled in this state first in Hartland township, where he bought 160 acres of Government land, on which he erected a log house and made many improvements and resided for several years. As prosperity afforded he added to his original possessions and purchased forty acres of land across the line in Freeborn township, where he eventually moved and built a

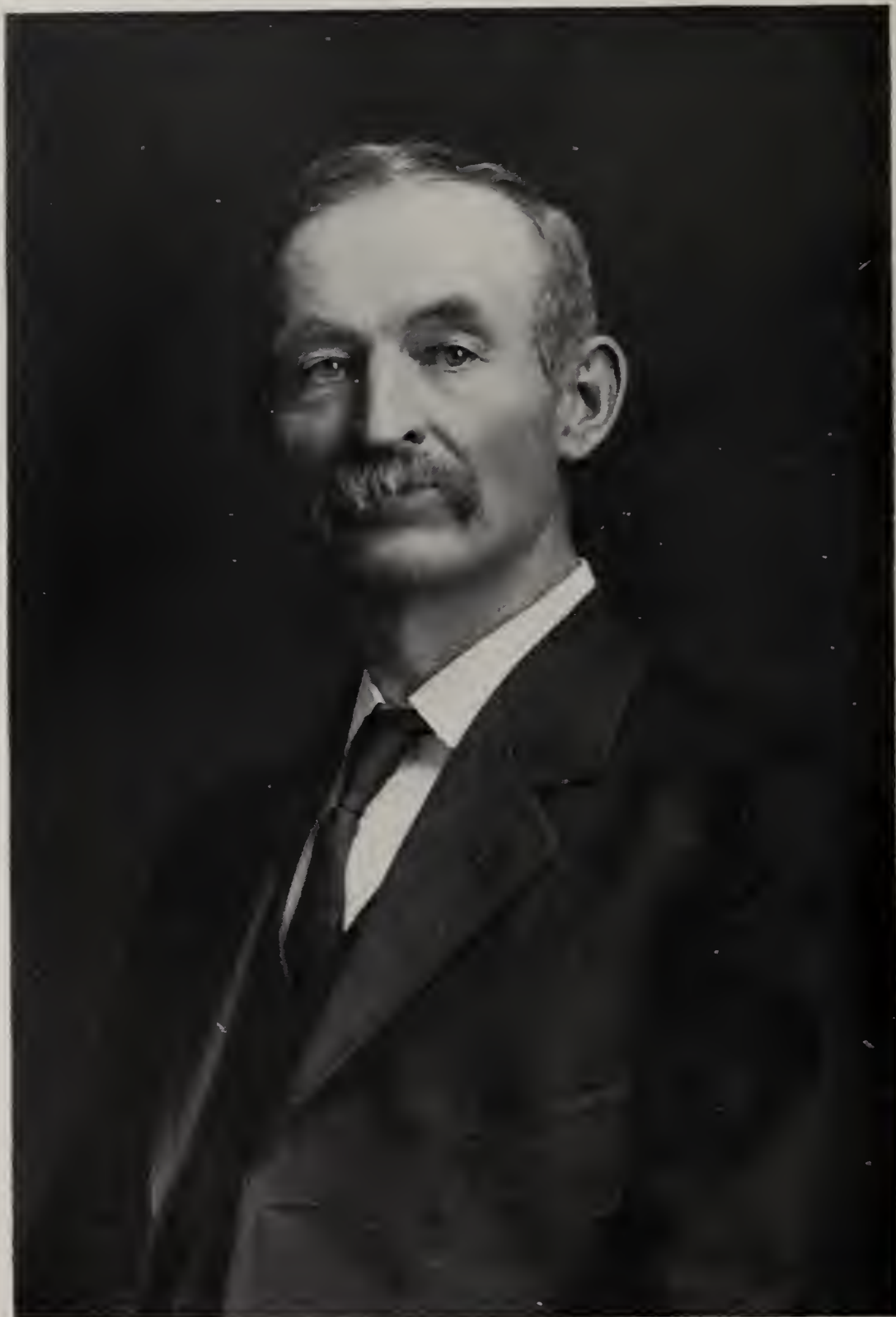


frame house, cultivated the soil and carried on general farming until 1893. During this year, Mr. Schoen rented his farm and moved to Albert Lea and purchased a house at Washington street, where he made his home for a period of time, later selling and moving to Sunset avenue, where he had erected a house. This house Mr. Schoen sold at a later date, after which he purchased the home located at 501 Fountain street, where he resided in retirement until his death, which occurred March 19, 1911. In 1864, Mr. Schoen joined the Union army and served until the close of the war, bravely fighting for the preservation of the Union. He was smitten with a sunstroke on a march near Richmond, but recovered, and was later honorably discharged. He was an independent voter and did not seek public office. He was a member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., Albert Lea, and a respected member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Schoen's years of industry and farsightedness enabled him to enjoy many of the comforts and luxuries of life during his later years. On October 17, 1856, he married Caroline Harold at New York city. She was born in Germany, December 4, 1833, daughter of Samuel and Caroline Harold. Mr. and Mrs. Schoen were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living: Adelia; Alfred, of Wells, Minn.; Mary, the wife of Samuel Beach, of Manchester; Ella, now Mrs. John Stoa, of Albert Lea; Dora, married to Frank Yost, of Rochester, Minn.; Mary L. and John H., deceased.

**Peter J. Tennis**, a progressive farmer of Pickerel Lake township, was born there April 10, 1871, the son of Peter and Barbara (Groosbusch) Tennis. Peter was a native of Germany and came to the United States and settled in Laporte county, Indiana, where he farmed a time. He came to Pickerel Lake in the fifties and located on section 26. He here followed general farming, living in the 13 x 13 log house which he erected soon after taking the land. Much of his time in the first years was taken up in clearing and breaking the land and in making the necessary improvements that the farm might become one of increasing value. He gave his efforts to establishing the community on a firm basis for future prosperity, and held several public offices. He died January 20, 1892, only four days after the death of his wife. The subject of this biography attended the country schools till fourteen years of age, and then took up regular work on his father's farm. At the time of his father's death he took charge of the farm and has from time to time purchased other land; he now owns 310 acres in sections 25, 26, Pickerel Lake township. He keeps a good herd of grade short-horns and Shropshire sheep, and gives considerable attention to the feeding of steers for market. He annually raises from sixty to eighty hogs of Poland China breed and keeps several horses







J. E. SIMMS



for farm and driving purposes. The brick house in which Mr. Tennis lives was built in 1885 and is one of the first of the thoroughly comfortable and roomy houses to be built in this locality. On January 25, 1893, the subject of this biography married Mary Holscher, of Manchester, and to them have been born two children, Elizabeth B. and Agnes Annie. Mr. Tennis is a member of the Catholic church, which he attends in Albert Lea. In politics he is independent and has been a director in school district 102 seven years and has held several of the minor offices of the district. Mr. Tennis has made many improvements on his farm, having built a large and modern barn, 40 x 80 feet, and many outbuildings. He has also laid over 2,000 rods of tiling. He has been road overseer, and is a member of the M. W. A. of Albert Lea, as well as of the Albert Lea nest of Owls.

**J. E. Simms**, a territorial pioneer, has one of the oldest mercantile establishments in Freeborn county, having been in business in Albert Lea since 1877. He was born in New Jersey, July 26, 1845, son of H. T. and Anna B. (Moore) Simms, and came with them to Freeborn township, this county, with the earliest settlers in 1856. He attended the public schools, and later took a course in Milton College, at Milton, Wis. After teaching two years, he came to Albert Lea, and was employed in the county auditor's office. Then he was interested in the drug and music business a year, after which he opened a music store of his own, handling pianos, organs, and, in fact, all kinds of string, reed and wind instruments. With the invention of the phonograph, he added that line also, and, in addition to this, he also handles sheet music, his place at the present time being one of the musical headquarters of the county. His store at 126 West William street is well worth a visit. While in Freeborn, Mr. Simms served as a justice of the peace, but has not entered public life since his residence in Albert Lea. He is an independent voter, but a believer in the prohibition principles. His place of worship is at the Presbyterian church. The subject of this sketch was married in 1872 to Josephine Crandall, of Wisconsin, and this union has been blessed with four children: Elwyn is married and lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Jessie is the wife of John Lorenz, and lives in Jackson, Miss.; Hattie is the wife of Lawrence McCarthy and lives in New York city; Mildred is at home and assists her father in the store. The family residence is at 503 Park avenue. Mr. Simms has taken a deep interest in the early history of the county and has delivered several talks on the subject. May 11, 1909, he presented the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers with a poem entitled "The Vacant Chair," the third verse being his own composition, and the other verses being an entire rearrangement of a favorite old song, from which the music also was



derived. The words of Mr. Simms' song are as follows, the chorus being the first two lines of the first verse:

We shall meet but we shall miss them, there will be some vacant  
    chairs  
Which remind us of their absence, as we breathe our fervent  
    prayers;  
When a year ago we gathered, joy beamed forth from their  
    mild eyes,  
But a golden chord is severed and our hope in ruin lies.

At our banquet we recall them and with greatest reverence hold  
In remembrance of the stories that our valiant heroes told;  
How they strove to bear the burden that upon their shoulders fell,  
While with joy and hope they builded their new homes in which  
    to dwell.

One by one our friends are passing to the better land away,  
And their memories still linger as we meet again to-day;  
Soon the last of our companions will be numbered with the dead  
And the world will be made better by the noble lives they led.

True, they tell us crowns of glory ever more bedeck their brows,  
But this only soothes the anguish sweeping o'er our heartstrings  
    now;  
Sleep to-day, O noble heroes, in thy green and narrow beds,  
Dirges from the oak and willow mingle with the tears we shed.

**W. J. Warwick** was born in Winona county, Minnesota, in 1889, son of James and Ida (Clark) Warwick. His father, who was a native of Ireland, came to America when he was twenty-five years of age and located in Winona county, Minnesota, where he lived until his death. His mother was a native of Winona county, where she resides at the present time. W. J. Warwick was educated in the common schools of Winona county, and later took a short course in the Austin schools. Completing his early schooling, he secured a position as railroad station agent, in which capacity he was employed for several years. He gave up this position to take a course of study to fit himself for a chiropractic practitioner and went to Davenport, Iowa, for this purpose. Later he came to Alden and entered into partnership with J. E. Clayton and here they conducted a general merchandise business until January 1, 1911, when Mr. Warwick sold out to his partner. The subject of this sketch married Dolly Wolcott, a daughter of John Wolcott, of St. Clair, Minn. One child born to them died in infancy. Mr. Warwick is a Republican in politics.







THOMAS THOMPSON



**J. E. Clayton** is one of the well known men in his community. His parents were Eastern people who came to Minnesota in 1863 and located at Money Creek, Houston county, where they engaged in farming until 1909, at which time the father, Samuel Clayton, passed away. His wife, Henrietta (Howes) Clayton, now making her home in Alden with her son, the subject of this biography. When a boy J. E. Clayton began his education in the schools in Houston county and later completed it in the Normal school at Winona. He then went to the northern part of the state and purchased a farm, on which he worked during the summer months, teaching school in the winter. For three years he continued these occupations, after which he studied telegraphy and worked at this for ten years, finally securing the position of station agent in Alden, where he finally located. Later he and W. J. Warwick formed a partnership, purchased a building in Alden, and here established a general store. The partnership was dissolved January 1, 1911, when Mr. Clayton purchased the Warwick interest. Annie Warwick, a sister of W. J. Warwick, married Mr. Clayton, and they have one child, Estella. Mr. Clayton is a Republican in politics and is a member of the school board. He affiliates with the M. W. A. and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Thomas Thompson** and Kari Jacobson, his wife, were early residents of this county. In 1852 they left their home in Norway and crossed the ocean to found for themselves a new home in a strange country. Upon arriving in the United States they proceeded west as far as Wisconsin, where they remained for the following eight years, after which they came to Minnesota in 1860 and located in Bath township. They here reared their family of nine children: Bessie, Mary, Carrie, Jacob, Thomas, Henry, Louise, A. C. and Isaac. The latter has charge of his father's farm, which consists of 156 acres, of which about 100 acres are cultivated and the rest is pasture and timber land. Thomas Thompson and his wife underwent all the hardships and privations of pioneer days, but overcame their difficulties and made their home one which excites the admiration of all who see it. He is living with his children, Isaac and Mary, on the old homestead, at the advanced age of eighty-six years, his wife having passed away in March, 1881. The family attends the Lutheran church and the sons are of independent political opinions. A. C. Thompson, who has given the material for this biography, was born in Bath township, May 4, 1870, and, with his brothers and sisters, worked on the home farm many years. He has recently been appointed to the responsible position of general manager of the store owned by the Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Company.



**W. H. Walker**, one of the energetic and successful business men of the village of Alden, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, March 11, 1859, son of Asa and Mary C. (Bruce) Walker, natives of Vermont, who brought him to Carlston township the year he was born. He was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the district schools of Carlston township, completing his studies in the Albert Lea public schools. After leaving school he taught several terms in the rural districts winters and farmed summers. Later he turned his whole attention to farming until 1892, at which time he engaged in the agricultural implement supply business in Alden, in which vocation he continued until 1899. He then, together with others, formed a stock company, now known as the W. H. Walker Milling Company, and purchased a flour mill at Alden, which was burned five years later. After the fire a much larger and more modern mill was erected, where the company now manufactures several leading brands of flour. In 1900 the company built an electric light plant which supplies the street lighting system and is also used for commercial purposes. Mr. Walker has always taken an active interest in the progress of the village. He is now president and a director of the First National Bank of Alden, director of the Security State Bank of Alden, treasurer of the Alden Co-Operative Creamery, and was formerly first president of this latter association, which he assisted in organizing. He is an independent voter, is clerk of the school board of Alden, and a member of the Alden Fire Department. Mr. Walker is past grand of Alden Lodge, No. 192, I. O. O. F., and also affiliates with the M. W. A., the M. B. A., and the B. P. O. E. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Walker owns two farms of 400 acres in Carlston township. The subject of this sketch was married March 31, 1895, to Mary Whelpley, and this union has been blessed with three children, of whom one, Bruce, is living. The deceased were named Majorie and Robert.

**William White.** In 1760 there came to America from the north of Ireland a sturdy yeoman of Scotch-Irish ancestry by the name of White. He settled in Orange county, New York, and there, in 1772, was born a son, Thomas. This son, Thomas, after his marriage, located on a farm at Bemis Heights, in Saratoga county, New York, the homestead being on the historic battle ground where General Burgoyne and his army on September 9, 1777, surrendered to the Colonial forces under General Gates. Here on September 8, 1796, was born William White, son of Thomas White, and a prominent pioneer of Freeborn county, Minnesota. In 1798 the family moved from Saratoga county to Clinton county in the same state, and there William grew to manhood. In 1812 he enlisted in the United States army and did



duty as a teamster about Platsburg. For this service he received a government land warrant, dated 1814. In the fall of that year the family moved to Tioga county, New York. Here William engaged in the lumber business and farming, operating his lumber business along the Susquehanna river for a period of forty-one years. In the spring of 1857, having in the meantime married and raised a family, he came to Minnesota, and June 17, of that year, located in Nunda township, this county. Here he attained considerable distinction. He was a justice of the peace for many years and from 1861 to 1867, inclusively, served as a member of the board of county commissioners, being chairman of that board a part of the time. He died January 17, 1876, strong in the faith of the religion which had sustained him throughout his life. The subject of this sketch was married in New York state to Margaret Lane. Nine children were born to this union. Joseph and Frederick H. are dead. Sarah lives in Spokane, Wash.; Mary Ann in Ortonville, Minn.; Charles in Oregon, Richard in Nunda township, this county; Harriett in Rochester, Minn.; Rachael in Nunda, this county, and Addie in Faribault, Minn. Mrs. Margaret Lane White died February 18, 1778.

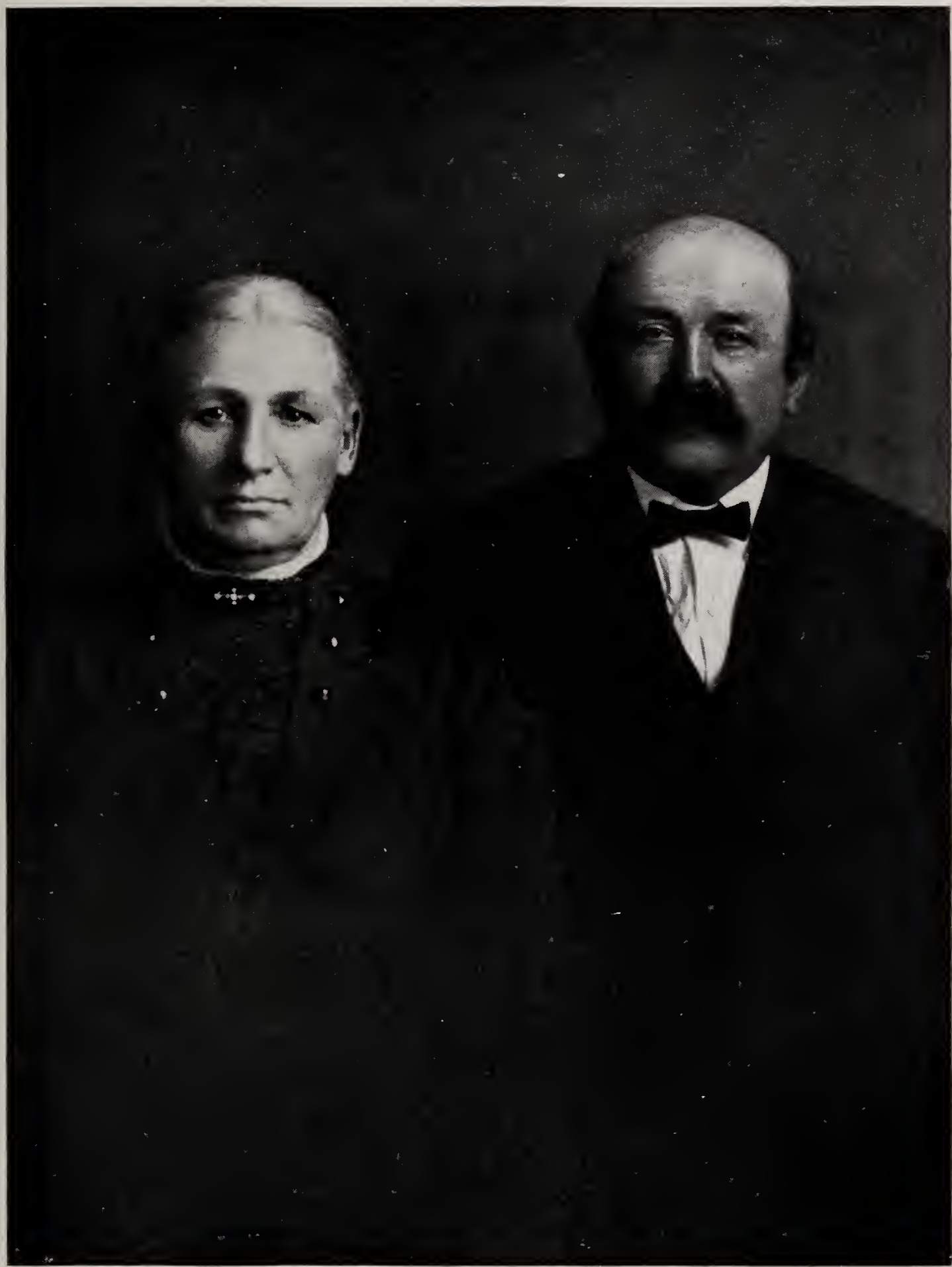
**Richard A. White**, a well known and honored resident of Nunda township, was born in Tioga county, New York, January 11, 1840, son of William and Margaret (Lane) White. At the age of seventeen years, in 1857, he came to Nunda township, this county, with his parents, and selected a claim, although too young to prove upon it. He erected a log cabin and developed the place until the outbreak of the Civil War. Leaving his claim under the protection of the act which secured soldiers in the possession of land upon which they were proving up, he enlisted in 1861 in Company F, Fourth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war, taking part in many engagements and battles, including the siege and battle of Corinth, the battles of Ramon, Jackson and Champion Hill, and the siege and fall of Vicksburg. He had the honor of being on guard duty when the Confederates marched out of the latter place and surrendered. Later he made the famous march to the sea with Sherman, and was mustered out at Savannah, Ga., December 22, 1864. He then went north, visited New York, received his pay at St. Paul, and was there mustered out. After this he returned to his claim, which he homesteaded under the new homestead act. In 1865 he built an addition to his cabin, and a few years later erected a frame house. Mr. White has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He owns 640 acres, carries on general farming, raises from fifty to 100 hogs annually, keeps fifteen Norman horses, and thirty-five milch cows of the Guernsey breed, he being one of the first to engage in dairy farming in this county. He believes thor-



oughly in co-operation among farmers, is a stockholder in the Clover Valley Creamery, was its president at one time, and is still one of its directors. Although over seventy years of age, Mr. White is hale and hearty and a most active worker. He has taken an active interest in all public affairs, votes the Republican ticket, has at different times been assessor, was for ten years clerk of his school district and has served some thirty-five years as justice of the peace. For two terms he was town supervisor. It is also interesting to note that Mr. White helped to lay out and organize the Bear Lake Cemetery and has been treasurer of its board for some time. He is also a member of Robson Post, G. A. R. The subject of this sketch was married March 26, 1872, to Jennie Rudler, of Crawford county, Pennsylvania. To this union have been born seven children, all of whom have grown to maturity in this county. Belle M. is the wife of O. Weston, of Faribault county, Minnesota; William M. married Frankie Kelley, and they also live in Faribault county; Allen married Emma Best, and lives in Nunda township; Ferris L. lives in North Dakota; Ray is at home; Lina married Clem. Lewis, and they live at Alberta, Canada; Lynn is at home.

**Christ Stiehl**, who has been a resident of Alden township for more than forty years, was born in Germany May 26, 1849. When he was twenty-one years of age he came to America with his brother, Louis, and proceeded west to Minnesota, where they secured employment of Hanibal Bickford. For four years they remained in the employ of Mr. Bickford, after which they began farming on their own responsibility. Mr. Stiehl eventually purchased a farm in Alden and as opportunity has afforded he has added to and improved his property until at present he owns one of the finest and most productive farms in the community. The small house which stood on the place at the time he purchased it has now been replaced by a fine new one and he has also erected commodious barns and the necessary outbuildings. He has 600 acres of land and the necessary machinery for carrying on a profitable farming business, and his farm is thoroughly modern and well equipped. He makes a specialty of breeding Guernsey cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He married Jennie Kasteng, and this marriage has resulted in the following children: Victor, Matta, Fred, Clara, Paulina, Arthur and Walter. Emma is deceased. Mr. Stiehl has always taken an active part in the offices of the township and is now serving as supervisor, this being his second term in office. He attends the German Lutheran Church, and is a man of sterling character, faithful in all that he undertakes and held in high esteem in his community. Mr. Stiehl is a stockholder in the First National Bank of Alden and in the





MR. AND MRS. CHRIST. STIEHL

de

cap

c

1



Conger creamery. He is trustee of the Presbyterian Church, of which for many years he has been a member.

**C. M. Wilkinson**, former register of deeds of Freeborn county, was born at Oswego, N. Y., April 20, 1850, the son of Allen and Mary (McGuire) Wilkinson. The father was a native of New York, the mother of Ireland. Allen Wilkinson, in his younger days, was a ship carpenter. With his wife he moved to Wisconsin in 1850, where he farmed until his death in 1861, his wife dying in 1903. The subject of this sketch received his early education in the rural schools of Wisconsin, finishing in Milton College, Milton, Wis. Upon leaving school, he entered the grain and livestock business in the state of Kansas, which occupation he followed from 1869 to 1872. Mr. Wilkinson then came to Freeborn county, where he again took up his former business in grain and livestock until 1900, when he was appointed deputy sheriff. This position he filled for six years, and in 1906 was elected register of deeds, serving until January 1, 1910. Mr. Wilkinson was united in marriage to Ella C. Fuller in 1874. Their home has been made happy by three children—Gleam Cora, C. M., Jr., and Harvey A. Politically Mr. Wilkinson is a Republican. He has served as mayor of of Albert Lea for seven years, also as president of the city council for three years. He is a high degree Mason and belongs to other fraternities.

**Sivert P. Knutson**, a prosperous farmer of Hartland township, was born June 11, 1870, in the township where he resides at the present time, son of Knut and Betsey Knutson, early settlers in the county. During the years of his boyhood the subject of this sketch attended the country school near home and assisted his father with the work on the farm. In 1893 he bought 160 acres of his father and later added to this eighty acres more, now owning 240 acres in all, located in section 22. Mr. Knutson has made many improvements on his property and has rendered it more productive and valuable each succeeding year. He carries on general diversified farming, and is most successful in his chosen occupation. He affiliates with the Republican party, and he is a member of the Lutheran Church. He has the respect of a large circle of friends, and of those with whom he has to deal in business transactions. On June 14, 1893, Mr. Knutson married Turena Anderson, and to them have been born five children—Nellie, Cora, Elmer, Tilford and Alma.

**Knut Knutson**, a well known farmer residing in Hartland township, was born in Norway, where he spent the early years of his life and grew to manhood. In 1853 the subject of this sketch came to America and located in Wisconsin, where he resided for six years, after which he came to Minnesota and settled in the township where he now makes his home. He purchased 120

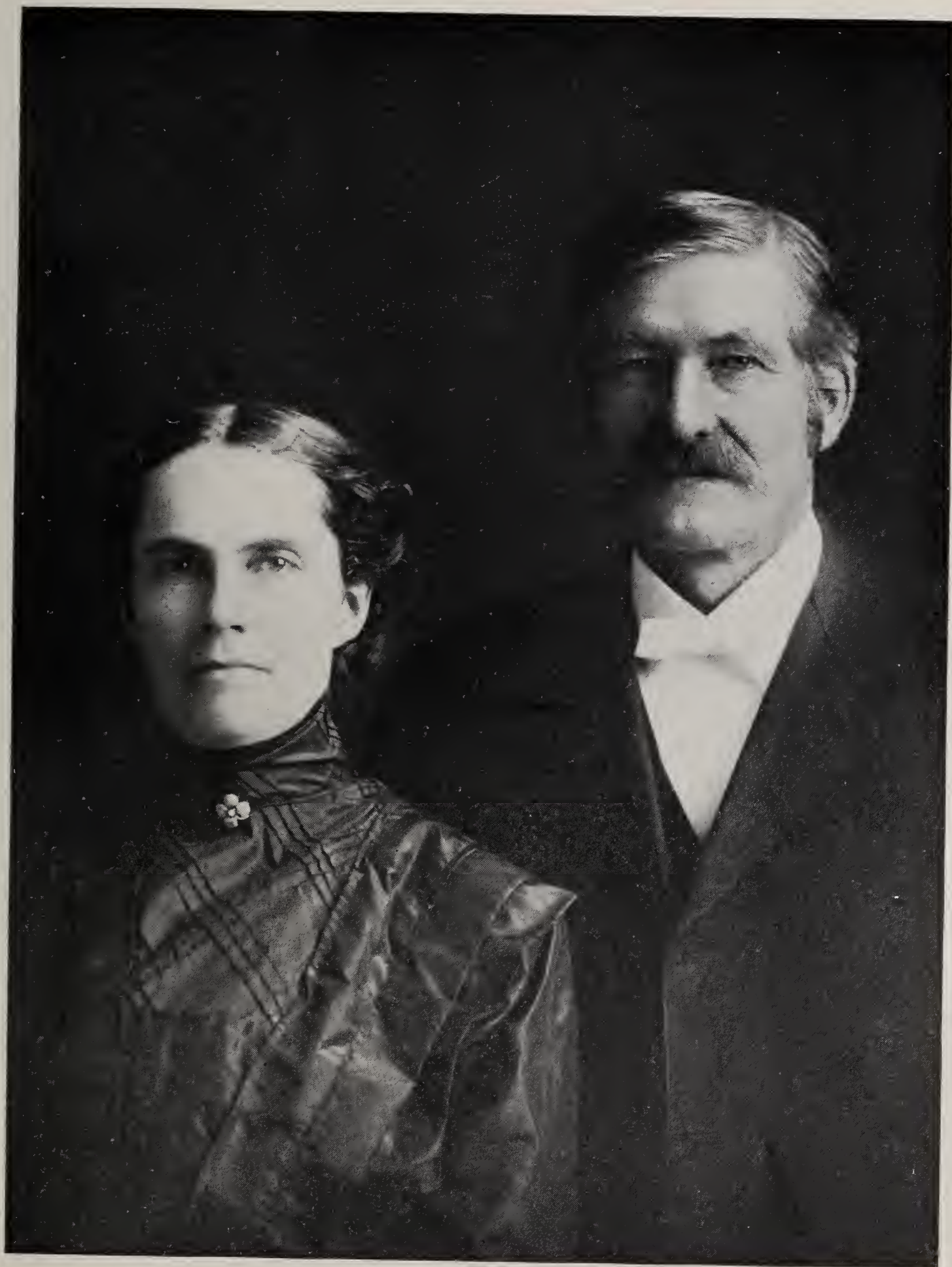


acres of government land, and later bought another 120 acres, and as he worked and grew more prosperous he purchased 179 acres located in Freeborn township. For many years Mr. Knutson engaged in general farming, but in 1903 he divided his property among his children and now lives a retired life. He was married in his native land to Betsey Knutson, and to them a family of twelve children have been born, of whom but five are now living; Caroline, who married Ole Erickson, of Bath township; Sivert P., of Hartland township; Malline, the wife of John Swenson, of Bath; Lewis, who resides in Freeborn township, and Clara, who is now the wife of Peter Johnson, of North Dakota.

**Guttrom K. Winjum**, one of the dairy farmers of Freeborn county, whose large farm of 240 acres is located in Bancroft township, was born in Norway, July 2, 1853, son of Kjeld and Carrie (Otternes) Winjum, both of whom died in their native land. The subject of this sketch received his education in Norway and came to America in 1873. Coming to Minnesota he felt the need of knowing more of the English language and went to school at Austin for two years, working on the farm during his vacations. Leaving school he learned the trade of carpenter, which he pursued for more than a dozen years. June 14, 1886, he married Sophia C. Olson, a native of Sogen, Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Winjum have ten children. Sarah, who attended Luther Academy two and a half years; Clara, a graduate of the Austin high school and Luther Academy; Minnie, who graduated from a business course at Luther Academy and is now a pupil in the National Business College at Albert Lea; Arthur; Louise, a pupil in Luther Academy; Clarence, who took a course in Luther Academy; Gerhardt, Mabel, Nora, and Theodore R. The last named died May 10, 1910, at the age of five. During the twenty-five years that Mr. Winjum has lived on his present farm he has not only increased its number of acres to 240 but has very effectively drained it with tile, cleared it and built fine home and commodious buildings for livestock and grain. There are about 100 acres under the plow and the balance is in pasturage. He pays considerable attention to the raising of draft horses, fine bred dairy cattle, Poland-China hogs and Shropshire sheep. He is a stockholder in the Bancroft Co-operative Creamery, which he helped to build. Mr. Winjum is politically a Republican. He has never held public office but is public spirited and has an active interest in promoting good schools. He is especially interested in the Norwegian Parochial School of Bancroft, being one of its strongest supporters.

**E. C. Johnson**, who is one of the prominent citizens of Freeborn county, was born in Norway, January 18, 1844, son of Christopher and Christine Johnson. He was brought to America





MR. AND MRS. G. K. WINJUM







MR. AND MRS. E. C. JOHNSON





by his parents in 1856, and they located first at Madison, Wis., where they resided for three years, after which they moved to Minnesota and settled in Bath township, engaging in general farming. On August 16, 1862, the subject of this sketch enlisted in Company E, Tenth Minn. Vol. Inf., in which he served through the entire struggle. He was honorably discharged at Fort Snelling on August 28, 1865, after which he returned to Bath township and resumed his former occupation of farming. When twenty-two years of age, Mr. Johnson purchased 120 acres in section 27, in Bath, and here he established his home, erected a good house and outbuildings, tilled the soil and for many years carried on general diversified farming. At different intervals he added to his original possessions until he owned 245 acres, which were all in the township of Bath and in the one farm, and in 1897 he rented this property and moved into Albert Lea. Mr. Johnson bought a place in this city, tore down the house which stood on it, and erected a new home in which he now resides in retirement. He has an enviable record in the history of the county, having held many of the responsible public offices in the townships in which he has resided. He has been chairman of the town board for several years, also supervisor, town treasurer, school clerk and constable. He also held the office of town assessor for fourteen years and for seven years served as county commissioner. At two different times he took United States census reports. He has even been a staunch member of the Republican party. Mr. Johnson has been actively associated in many business enterprises in the county, being a stockholder in the Clarks Grove State Bank, in the Clarks Grove Lumber Company, in the Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Company and in the Clarks Grove Mercantile Company. He is also manager of the Farmers' Live Stock Union of Freeborn county, and has held this office for the past fourteen years. Mr. Johnson was one of the organizers of the Clarks Grove Creamery Association and served as treasurer of this organization until 1897, when he resigned. As a token of the esteem in which he was held by members of that association, Mr. Johnson was presented with a gold watch. Among other organizations with which he has been connected are the Manchester Farmer's Insurance Company, of which he was one of the first directors, and the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association, of which he is a stockholder. On May 9, 1869, the subject of this biography was united to marriage with Mary Hanson, who was born in Norway, December 8, 1847, and came to America in 1857 with her parents, Stener Hanson and wife, who located in Bancroft township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of five living children, of whom, Rebecca and Carl, now reside on the old home farm in Bath; Alfred is an



engineer; Stella married Fred Burchard, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Arthur lives on the home farm. Alexander, who was a twin of Alfred, died in infancy. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Thomas A. Vandegrift**, veteran of the Civil War, and a leading citizen of Manchester township, has traveled in various parts of the United States, and is a man of wide experience and broad information. He was chairman of school district 53 for a number of years, and was the first president of the present Freeborn County Agricultural Society, which, with Dr. A. C. Wedge and William Morin and others, he assisted in organizing. He also helped organize the Albert Lea Creamery Company and was the first president, filling that position for eight years. Fraternally, Mr. Vandegrift has allied himself with the Masonic order, belonging to the Bristol (Penn.) Lodge, No. 25, A. F. & A. M., and to the Chapter and Commandery at Albert Lea. Thomas A. Vandegrift was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1843, son of Garrett and Anna (Rue) Vandegrift. He received his education in the public schools of his native county, and at Andalusia Academy, Andalusia, Penn. When he was nineteen years of age he enlisted, June 20, 1863, in the Forty-third Penn. Vol. Inf. Soon after the regiment was mustered out. Mr. Vandegrift became associated with the Scribner-Armstrong Publishing Company, of New York, with whom he remained until 1884, when he came to Freeborn county and purchased his present farm in Manchester township. Some of this he broke, and all of it he developed, carrying on general farming to the present time. In 1900 he sold 140 of his 348 acres to his son, Harold L., who has built thereon a comfortable home. Both father and son make a specialty of Jersey cattle and Berkshire hogs. The subject of this sketch was married May 21, 1873, in New York City, to Elizabeth Mudge, born in Rome, N. Y., October 2, 1852, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Beatty) Mudge. This union has been blessed with five children: Thomas A., deceased; Jeanie B., music teacher; Howard L., Allan R., of New Mexico, and Richard E., at home. Howard L., who is chairman of school district 53, lives in Manchester; he married Alice Humphrey and they have two sons, Thomas A., 2nd, and James H. Garrett and Anna (Rue) Vandegrift, parents of Thomas A., were natives of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where the former was a contractor and builder. Garrett died in 1882 and his wife in 1875. In their family were eleven children: William, deceased; Rachel, wife of Dr. Michael Lampen, of Philadelphia; Louis R., deceased; Elizabeth, deceased, wife of Thomas Woolman, of Philadelphia; Anna, wife of D. R. P. Hibbs, of Albert Lea; Sarah, of Bristol, Penn.; Thomas A., of Manchester, Minn.; Henry, of Albert Lea; Martha, wife of Lan-



drum King, of Philadelphia; Edwin, of Bristol, Penn., and Nellie, deceased. Samuel and Jane (Beatty) Mudge had four children: Erskine, Fanny and James, all deceased, and Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas A. Vandegrift.

**Frank W. Barlow**, an influential citizen of Albert Lea, was born in Genesee county, New York, November 27, 1852, son of Andrew and Anastacia (Schmutz) Barlow. When he was but a small boy he was brought to Minnesota by his parents, and later acquired his education in the public schools of this county. After leaving school he was employed in the Wedge & Blackmer Drug Store as a clerk, and remained in this line of business for several years, until he was elected to the office of county treasurer, serving for three terms. He later purchased an interest in the drug store where he had formerly been employed, which was then known as the Wedge, Jensen & Co. After Mr. Barlow became connected with the firm the name was changed to Wedge & Barlow, and when later M. M. Jones came into the firm the name was again changed to Wedge, Barlow & Co. Some time later Mr. Barlow bought the interests of the other two men and conducted the business for a time on his own responsibility. The firm is now known as Barlow & Spicer. Mr. Barlow is a director and stockholder in the First National Bank, in the Albert Lea State Bank and occupies similar positions in the Hamilton Bank at North Dakota. Mr. Barlow is a progressive Republican. He is associated with all the Masonic bodies of Albert Lea, being a member of the Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, R. A. M.; Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.; the Apollo Commandery, No. 12, K. T., in which latter order he has served as commander for two terms. He also belongs to the Zurah Temple, Mystic Shriners, of Minneapolis. Mr. Barlow served for three years in the Minnesota National Guards. He married Emma F. Prescott, a daughter of Cyrus and Harriett Prescott, of this county, June 14, 1875. Mrs. Barlow was born November 24, 1854, in Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Barlow two daughters have been born, Ethelyn and Charlotte P. The former was born May 5, 1876, and died in January, 1879. Charlotte P. was born in the city of Albert Lea November 9, 1877.

**Andrew Barlow**, one of the early pioneers in this county, was born in Germany, and he came to this country in 1851, locating first in Genesee county, New York, where he remained for four years. In 1857 he came west to Minnesota and located in Freeborn county, homesteading a farm of 160 acres in the township of Bancroft. He broke and developed the land and erected a log house in which he and his family lived for several years. The log house was eventually replaced by a frame building. Mr. Barlow carried on general farming for the remainder of his life



and made many improvements on his property. He married Anastacia Schmutz, who was also a native of Germany, and they were the parents of seven children: Frank, the oldest, now a resident of Albert Lea; Emily, the wife of M. L. Whelan, of Albert Lea; Flora, deceased; J. H., of Albert Lea; Andrew, who resides on the old home farm; Mary, who married John Thamert; Ellen, who resides on the home farm. Mr. Barlow passed away November 24, 1905, and his widow entered into rest six years later, October 3, 1910.

**Henry Drommerhausen**, of Pickerel Lake township, has been prominent in the public affairs of his part of the county. He was town treasurer for some years, later became chairman of the town board, and was serving his second term in that capacity when elected to the state legislature of 1897-99. He has also been an official of school district 57 for a number of years. Henry Drommerhausen was born in Weismar, Germany, July 2, 1847, son of George and Margaret (Ludwig) Drommerhausen, also natives of that country, who brought him to Pickerel Lake township in the late fifties. Here he received his early education, and remained on the home farm until twenty-seven years of age, at which time he purchased eighty acres in the south half of the southeast quarter of section 27, Pickerel Lake township. This land he broke and cleared, erected a good home and suitable barns, and prospered with the years until he now owns 418 acres in sections 27, 26, 35 and 34. In addition to his farm holdings, he is a stockholder in the Clover Valley Creamery. He was married February 23, 1871, to Carolina Weiser, a native of Germany. This union has been blessed with eight children, two of whom are living: Henry George, born March 26, 1872, now a farmer in section 34, Pickerel Lake township, and Albert, born February 23, 1890. The family religion is that of the Lutheran church.

**D. R. Young** was born in Connecticut, went to Ohio when sixteen years of age, and from there moved to Dodge county, Wisconsin. His wife, Elmira Marvin, was born in Vermont, and in early life moved to Wisconsin, where they were married. In 1856 they came to Freeborn county and settled in section 11, Shell Rock township, where they preempted 160 acres. The first summer was spent in a hay shanty. In the fall they erected a log cabin covered with sod, and the following summer put on a shingle roof. Later a frame house was built, and this subsequently was replaced with a modern dwelling erected in 1893. With the years they prospered, and acquired an extra 200 acres in addition to their original claim. In 1897 they moved to Northwood, Iowa, where Mrs. Young died in 1901 and Mr. Young in 1905.



**C. T. Young**, chairman of Shell Rock township, was born in the town in which he still resides, January 27, 1858, son of D. R. and Elmira (Marvin) Young. He received his education in the public schools of Glenville, taught school winters and farmed summers until twenty-three years of age, at which time he went to North Dakota, where he prospected for a year. Then he returned to Shell Rock, purchased eighty acres of railroad land, and started general farming. He now owns 181 acres in sections 3 and 10, Shell Rock township, and also a farm in Douglass county Wisconsin. Mr. Young's home is a model farmhouse in every respect. It is surrounded with trees and shrubs which he has planted himself, and the walks are of cement, giving the place an excellent appearance. The subject of this sketch was married in 1893 to Minnie Wilcox, of New York parentage, who was educated in the Normal school at Albany, N. Y., and before her marriage taught school in Albert Lea and Glenville. This union has been blessed with two children: Helen and Clifford. Mr. Young is a Republican in politics and has served in many offices of public and private trust and honor, having been a member of the town board for the past eighteen years, and chairman of the town for the past nine years, as well as a member of the Republican town central committee. Fraternally he affiliates with the B. A. Y. and the A. F. & A. M. at Albert Lea. Mr. Young is a man of integrity and is held in high regard by the people of his community.

**C. J. Dudley**, who for the past three years has served the city of Albert Lea in the capacity of city clerk, was born in Albert Lea township, January 19, 1863, son of Joseph D. and Mary (Eggelston) Dudley, who came to Minnesota and homesteaded a claim near Albert Lea in 1856, the former dying in 1883 and the latter in 1911. C. J., after completing his education, followed teaching for many years. He also farmed and engaged in the grocery business. In 1907 he was elected to serve as city clerk and this office he holds at the present time. He was united in the bonds of matrimony with Julia H. Waters, a daughter of Lafayette and Elizabeth (Hunter) Waters, and six children bless this marriage.

**A. P. Hanson** was born in Norway, May 6, 1849, and lived there until 1861, when he came to the United States with his parents and settled in Bancroft township, this county, in July, 1861. His father took up a claim in Hayward township. The subject of this sketch attended the country schools of the home district until twenty years of age. When he was twenty-one he bought forty acres of land in Hayward and worked this land seven years. He later, in company with his brother, bought a store in Hayward which they conducted seven years. In 1887 he



sold his interest in the store and came to Albert Lea, where he has since resided. In 1894 he built a substantial building on Broadway, which has since been known as The Hanson House. He now resides in his very attractive home on Lake Boulevard and has turned the management of the Hanson House, which now consists of rooming business only, over to his son, while he, since 1902, has lived a somewhat retired life. In May, 1870, Mr. Hanson married Olliane Hanson and to them have been born seven children.

**Loren Blackmer** was born in Lorain county, Ohio, March 15, 1839, son of Franklin and Minerva (Wilkins) Blackmer, with whom he came to Minnesota. He enlisted in Company F, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and he saw active service. After the war Mr. Blackmer returned to Freeborn county and engaged in agricultural industries until 1904, when he moved into Albert Lea city. He has been prominently identified with the public offices of both town and township, having served as supervisor, town clerk and town treasurer. Mr. Blackmer married Sarah E. Hicks December 27, 1864. She was a native of New York, born June 10, 1840. To Mr. and Mrs. Blackmer four children have been born. Mrs. Blackmer died December 14, 1902.

**Nels Ackland**, an early settler of Manchester township, was born in Norway in 1829. In 1848 he came to America and secured employment as a sailor on Lake Erie. Three years later he came westward to Danville, where he worked as a painter for fifteen years. He came to Minnesota in 1862 and located in Manchester, where he engaged in farming until the time of his death, which occurred on November 1, 1903. His wife, Regina (Dayland) Nelson, who died June 10, 1902, was also a native of the same country and bore him seven children. Of these two, Mattie and Byron, are deceased. Addie married E. O. Fossum; Charles and Louis still carry on farming operations in Manchester; Andrew is a carpenter and tinner, residing in Albert Lea, and Nettie lives in Albert Lea.

**Charles Ackland**, a prosperous farmer of Manchester township, was born on the farm where he still resides, December 12, 1868, son of Nels and Regina (Dayland) Ackland. He attended school in the district near his home and grew to manhood on the farm. He has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits. In the welfare of his community he has ever taken an active interest, is a stockholder in the local creamery and has served on the town board, also on the school board. The Lutheran Church counts him an active and valued member and he has served that body as trustee for many years. In politics he is a Republican. He was married to Augusta Thompson, of Hartland, March 4, 1899.

**Louis Ackland**, who farms in Manchester on the old Ackland homestead, was born April 5, 1866. He attended the school of



his district and helped his father on the farm. He now owns and cultivates 120 acres and has a comfortable home and well cared for surroundings. January 1, 1901, Clara Nelson, daughter of Emil Nelson, became his wife and two children have been born to them, one of whom, Reuben, is living. Orlan is deceased. In political views Mr. Ackland votes the Republican ticket. He is stockholder in the Manchester Creamery and has served on its board of directors.

**Andrew Anderson** and Georgiana Olson, his wife, the pioneers, were natives of Norway. In 1853 they left the land of their birth and settled in Milwaukee, Wis., where the father was employed in a sawmill four years. Coming to this county in 1857 they bought land in section 33, Hartland, and in section 4, Manchester, and here followed agriculture till 1862. The call for men to go to the aid of the Union became urgent and he responded by enlisting in Company K, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In this command he served through the war and was honorably discharged in 1865, at which time he returned home and once more took up farming. The severe life and many hardships endured while in the army had weakened him and on November 5, 1866, he died, leaving a family of four children, Ole, who died from injuries received in the war; Hans now deceased; Andrew, now deceased, and Bernhart N., present state senator. The wife and mother died January 24, 1905, at the age of eighty-six.

**Bernhart N. Anderson**, political leader, senator and agriculturist, was born in Manchester township, this county, May 2, 1861, son of Andrew and Georgiana (Olson) Anderson. He received his education in the common schools and continued to work the home farm until 1898, when he was elected county treasurer and in which office he served eight years consecutively. In 1906 he returned to the farm and has since followed diversified farming. On June 28, 1885, he married Emma Stensrud, of Freeborn township, and to them have been born twelve children, of whom eleven are living. Andreas died in infancy; Julia Amanda, Olive Maria, Cora Cecelia, Alfred B., Isabel Henrietta, Georgina, Beatrice Ingeborg, Inga Caroline, Alpha Turena, Georgia Charlotte and Hermena Andrea are all at home. Mr. Anderson is member and trustee of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is Republican and has been elected to many high offices in addition to that of county treasurer which has been mentioned, among which are school and town offices and state senator, in which latter office he has served since 1907. He was formerly secretary of the Manchester Insurance Company, and president of Farmers' Mutual Company, and has held many minor offices of trust and honor. Though the owner of 240 acres of land and an active business man of diverse interests he has not neglected the social opportunities, being a



member of M. W. A., A. O. U. W. and the Sons of Norway. Mr. Anderson's life, his responsible positions, repeated election, his fine home and the high esteem in which he is held by the best element of the community all speak for the success of a man who has taken advantage of the opportunities to make himself a power for good works both for himself and for his state. He is a self-made man who has largely assisted in making a state.

**T. K. Langrud**, a hardworking farmer of Manchester, is a native of Norway, where he was born in Sigdahl, March 8, 1877, son of Knut and Goro (Thronson) Langrud. His father being a farmer and blacksmith, T. K. early in life secured a working knowledge of both these lines of work. He received his education in Norway, where he lived till nineteen years of age, came to the United States in 1896 and located in Manchester, this county, where he worked out four years. He was later employed as a store clerk for one year. Since that time he has followed farming, on his well improved 100 acres, where he has a fine residence. In December, 1899, he married Albertina Nelson, of Manchester, and to them have been born two children, Stella Gustina and Carl Johan. Mr. Langrud is a member of the Lutheran church. He votes with the Republican party, but has never sought office in this or any other party organization.

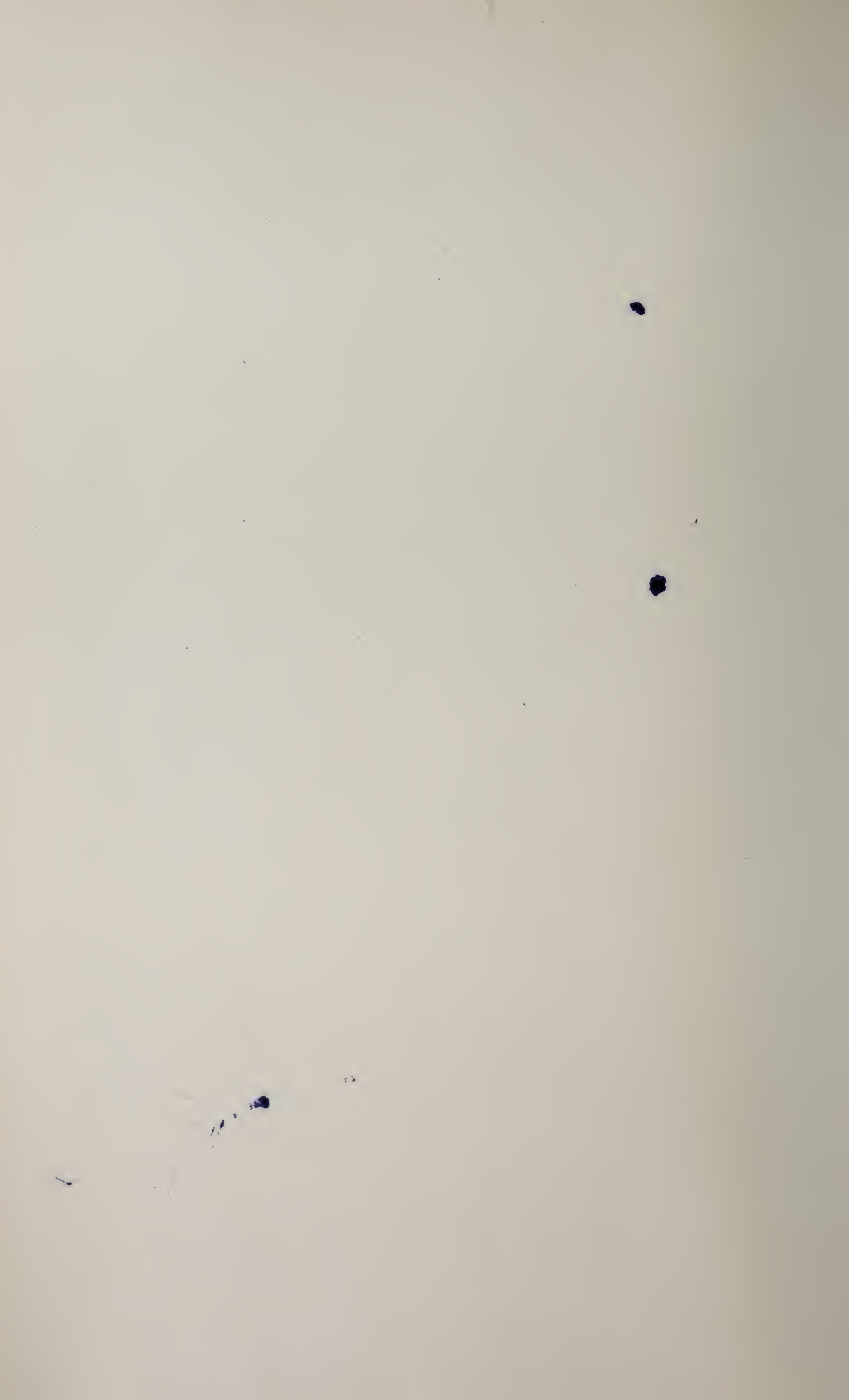
**Arthur E. Rodsater**, a well known farmer residing in Manchester, was born February 20, 1879, son of Iver and Ingeborg (Anderson) Rodsater. His boyhood days were spent in attending school and in doing the work which the average farm boy is required by his father to do, preparing him for the multitudinous duties of a farmer's life and thus laying the foundation for his future success. When he reached his majority he rented a farm and there put into practice the knowledge acquired in the years spent assisting his father. After living on this property for five years he bought it and has followed diversified farming here most successfully. May 2, 1900, he married Inga Stensrud. Four children brightened their home: Ivan, Ingeborg, Constance and Artice. Mr. Rodsater is one of the organizers of the local telephone company and held the position as its secretary for a period of five years. He also acted as township assessor for five years, an office which he most ably filled, and while his numerous interests prevent his taking an active part in politics, he votes with the Republican party and is a respected member of the Lutheran Synod church.

**Rollof Thykeson**, a well known resident of Manchester township and a substantial representative of the financial integrity of that town, was born in Norway, February 27, 1837. He received his education in the schools of his native land and came to America with his two brothers in 1852. For a year and a half they were





ROLLOF THYKESON AND FAMILY





employed by farmers in Dane county, Wisconsin, after which they went to Winneshiek county, Iowa. Later they returned to Wisconsin and were employed in the woods near Menomonee. In 1856 Mr. Thykeson came to Manchester township and is the oldest living settler residing here. When the war between the North and South broke out, he enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Wis. Vol. Inf., and was mustered in at Madison, Wis., February 11, 1862. He was in the battle of Island Number 10, Union City, Perryville, Lancaster and Murfreesboro, was taken sick in the fall of 1863 and was transferred to the Veteran's reserve. He received his honorable discharge in 1865, and then followed general and dairy farming on his farm of 300 acres until 1907, when he retired and now makes his home in the village of Manchester. Ina Ellingson became his wife in 1866 and this marriage has been blessed by the birth of fourteen children, of whom eleven are living: Josephine, the wife of Carl Gunderson, of Bancroft township; William, engaged in the grocery business in Albert Lea; John, a merchant in Manchester; Sophia, now Mrs. Julius Mattson, of Freeborn township; Clara, married to Ole Johnson, of Windom; Edwin, hardware merchant in Hartland; Manda, wife of Peter Jordahl, a buttermaker in Hartland; Oscar, a farmer in Manchester; Ruth and Lulu, at home. Mr. Thykeson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and a man to whom increasing years have brought increasing honors, as has been proven by his being elected to the office of supervisor of the town for many years and his services as president of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company. He affiliates with the Republican party and is in every respect one of the leading citizens of Manchester.

**G. Haakenson**, a popular merchant of Manchester, is a native of Norway, born December 15, 1859, son of Haaken and Mary Torgerson. Haaken Torgerson was a farmer and came to America in 1884, located in Manchester, where he lived a retired life until his death in 1899, the mother having died in 1896. The subject of this biography attended school in Norway and after leaving school was employed in a nickel factory. In 1881 he came to America and located in this county in Manchester township, where he worked on a farm three years. He then entered a partnership with K. H. Slette in a grain and stock business, which they conducted for five years. This business he then sold and established a general store, under the firm name of Haakenson Brothers, in Manchester. This business he conducted five years, after which time the brother sold an interest in the business to L. O. Hartz. The firm of Haakenson & Hartz continued in business five years. The Thykeson Brothers general store was then purchased. Later John A. Thykeson entered the firm, and these three, L. O. Hartz, G. Haakenson and John A. Thykeson, now conduct a large busi-



ness in general merchandise under the firm name of G. Haakenson & Co., carrying a full line of the goods usually found in such an establishment. In 1887 G. Haakenson married Antonette Hartz, who is a native of Norway and a daughter of E. Hartz, of Manchester. To this union have been born seven children: Cora Maria, married to Carl Aasen, of Manchester; Hilda Emelia, married to Oscar Hallum, of Hartland; Maren, George, Luella, Valborg and Lionel are all at home. Mr. Haakenson is a member and strong worker for the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican, but has never aspired to public office.

**Erik Aasen**, a venerable and well known resident of Manchester township, was born in Norway, in December, 1829. He was educated in the schools of his native land, and engaged in farming there until reaching the age of twenty-nine years. In 1856 he came to America and located in Clinton county, Iowa, where he spent one year, after which he came to Manchester township and purchased a farm on which he has since engaged in a general farming business. Many were the hardships and privations endured by the early settlers in those days, but their struggles with adverse circumstances have long since been rewarded by prosperity and plenty. Mr. Aasen worked with untiring energy on his property and his efforts are responsible for the well-improved and comfortable home and farm which he now owns. Agatha Mork of Northwood, Ia., became his wife and to them have been born six children: Carl, a resident of Manchester; John, who is married and now owns the home place; Helena, the wife of Theo. Opsahl, a clergyman; Severina and Ida, who are both married, and Olga. The Norwegian Lutheran church is attended by Mr. Aasen and he has long advocated the views of the Republican party.

**Hans Christopherson** is a native of Norway and it was there that he learned and later followed his trade of carpenter. In 1850 he came to the United States together with a large party of his countrymen and first settled in Columbia county, Wisconsin. He made his home there for eight years, working his farm in the summer and each winter going to the lumber woods for winter work. In 1858 he came to this county and located in Manchester township, where he bought land. He has since resided on this land and from time to time has bought adjoining tracts until now he has 240 acres. His wife was formerly Mary Ammundson. To this union were born three children: Caroline, now deceased; Netta, who married Peter Marstad, a clothier of Sioux Falls, and Christ. is on the home farm. Christ. married Thorena Mattson, in October, 1892, and to them one child, Agnes, was born. In 1897 Thorena (Mattson) Christopherson died. The subject of this biography is a member of the Lutheran church and is at present treas-





HANS CHRISTOPHERSON





urer of the local church. He is an independent or progressive Republican and has been clerk of the school board several terms.

**K. H. Slette**, a prosperous grain dealer in Manchester, is the son of Halvor and Boel Slette, who came to America in 1852 from Norway. They located in Wisconsin and carried on farming there for some time, after which they moved to Manchester township. It was here that their son was born, Nov. 7, 1862. They acquired some land and engaged in general farming, which industry was continued by the mother after the death of the father, which occurred in 1867. Later in life she became the wife of Sever Thorson and still resides on the old home place at the age of seventy-four. Her son, K. H. Slette, followed farming the earlier part of his life, an occupation in which he is interested at the present time. He married Pernilla Sanderson, daughter of John Sanderson of Bancroft township, in 1884, and they are the parents of Mrs. Hartz of Manchester; Inga, stenographer at Albert Lea; Ester, a student at Luther Academy, and Agnes, at home. Mr. Slette has never aspired to the public offices in his community, as his many business interests occupy all his time. He is a stockholder in the Manchester State Bank, also in the Citizens' Bank of Albert Lea, and in connection with the elevator business he buys and ships livestock. He affiliates with the Republican party, attends the Lutheran church and has the respect of his fellow-men.

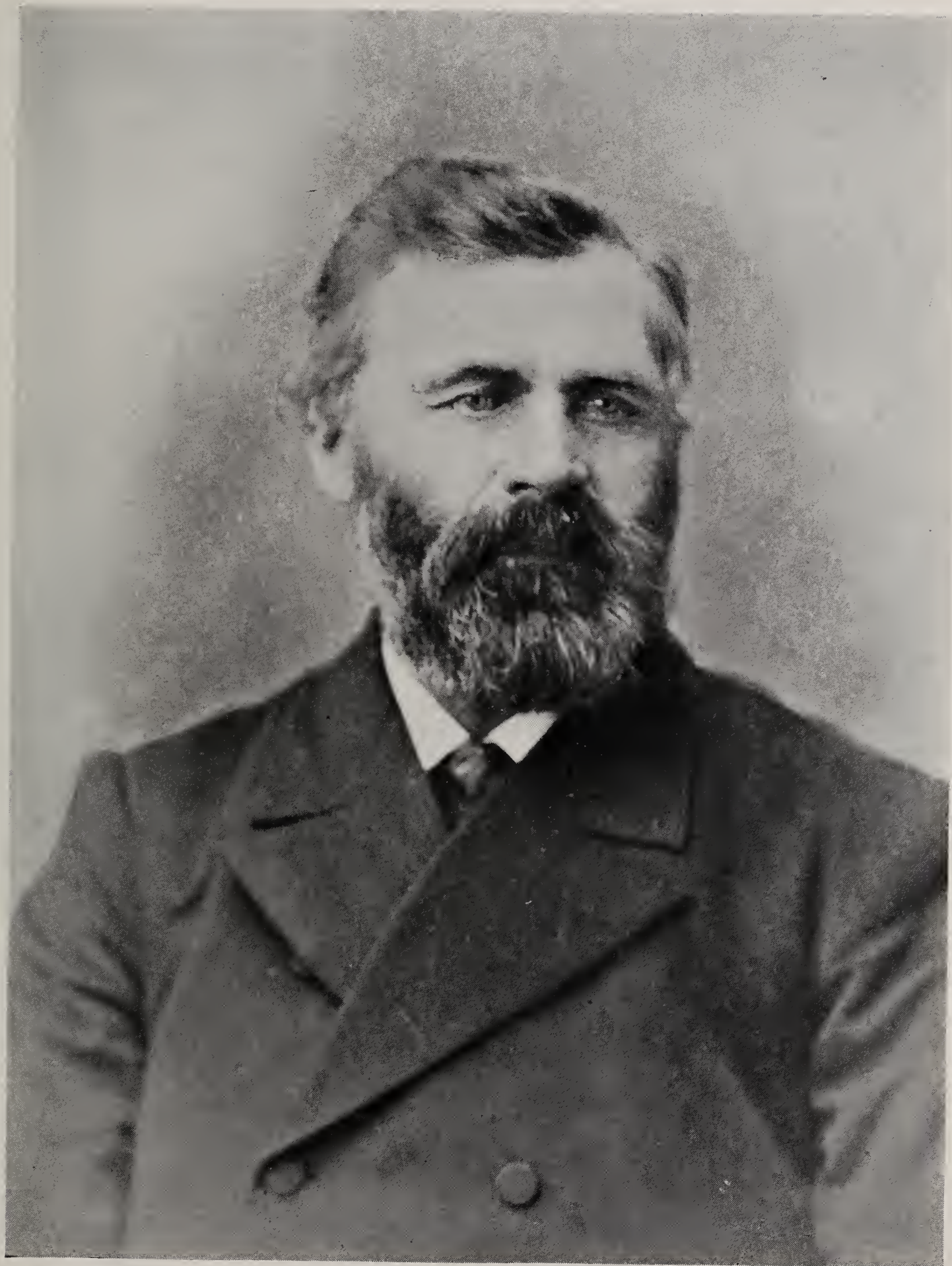
**Frederick McCall**, who has served the government as postmaster at Twin Lakes since that office was established, is said to be the oldest postmaster of continuous service in Minnesota. He was appointed to this position June 15, 1865, the office then being known as Nunda, and though now at the advanced age of eighty-five, Mr. McCall still efficiently attends to the duties in this office. He was born in Belfast, Ireland, Nov. 24, 1826, son of David and Sophia McCall, who were of Scotch Covenanters and English Puritan ancestry. When the subject of this sketch was five years of age, he with his parents embarked in the sailing vessel "Margaret Jane" for America. The voyage, which consumed eighteen weeks, was a most perilous one, there being mutiny on board, and the passengers were rescued by a British ship and eventually reached their destination, landing at Quebec, Canada. Mr. McCall and his parents located in Montreal, and from there they went to Kingston and later to Moore, where they were engaged in general farming. Frederick made friends with the Indians, hunted with them and learned their language and they in return for his kindness made a grant to his father of Stag Island, in the St. Clair river, where the family then made their home for two years, after which they moved to Port Sarnia. The father there opened a general store and tin shop and he later became justice of the peace, queen's commissioner and postmaster. Frederick,



the subject of this biography, attended the common school and also took up the study of Latin, learned the tinner and coppersmith trade and later learned general surveying. He worked in the employ of a party of surveyors and assisted to make the first survey of St. Marie channel and also of the northeast shores of Lake Huron. In 1849 he engaged with a partner in the manufacture of gloves and whips in Port Sarnia, but on account of ill health he later disposed of his interests and started for Minnesota. He arrived at St. Ansgar, Ia., Sept. 10, 1856, and from there went to Shell Rock, where he stopped with George Gardner. He soon went to inspect the country near Twin Lakes, where he finally located and erected a log cabin. Some time later Mr. McCall went to Canada and brought his family to Twin Lakes, arriving at this place June 11, 1857. For different periods of time he was employed at various occupations, making axe helds, ox bows, working in tin shops at Albert Lea, Austin and Preston. On Dec. 4, 1857, he was elected to the office of justice of the peace, which he has served for a greater part of the time since. He has also been town clerk, chairman of the town board, first secretary of the county agricultural society, delegate for many successive years to the Republican county conventions, a successful opponent against Nunda voting railroad bonds, and against the drainage of Bear Lake. In 1880 he wrote and published a pamphlet entitled "Thoughts on Theological and Scientific Theories," and he has written many poems, which have been read at different public gatherings throughout the county. He was one of the organizers of the first Sunday school in Nunda, and has ever been an active member of the Methodist church. Mr. McCall married Ann Wallis, May 6, 1849, and of the children who have been born to them the following are now living: Frederick A., a farmer of Spring Island; Margaret Ann, a merchant, of Twin Lakes; John David and Christopher Stuart, farmers of Twin Lakes, and George Arthur, engineer, of Albert Lea. Mr. McCall has an enviable record for being a public spirited, useful and model citizen, and he has ever had the respect and affection of those with whom he has been associated.

**Ole Peterson (Slette)** and Ingeborg Rugland, his wife, were born in Norway. They were married in Rock County, Wisconsin, the former coming to America in 1850, while the latter preceded him by a year. They came to Manchester township, Freeborn county, Minnesota, by ox team in 1856 and were one of the first six families who located there. They settled on the unbroken but fertile prairies and pursued farming as a life vocation. Ole Peterson (Slette), when the flames of Civil War broke out and threatened the life of the nation, enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry as first lieutenant, and





OLE PETERSON (SLETTE)





served one year, after which he was taken sick and received his honorable discharge from military duty. He died at his farm home in Manchester township in June, 1891. His wife had died the preceding November. In 1883 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Peterson (Slette). They were: Mary (deceased), married to Isaac Hendrickson, of Bisbe, N. D.; Peter O., Gilbert, now a farmer at Park River, N. D.; Helga (deceased), married to Adolph Mikkelson; Knut O., banker at Culbertson, Mont., and Anna, married to Frank Sanborn, of Northfield. Ole Peterson (Slette) was, during his lifetime, a member of the Lutheran Church, a Republican politically, and the first president of the Manchester Insurance Company.

**P. O. Slette**, one of the substantial farmers of Manchester township, Freeborn county, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, November 4, 1855, son of Ole Peterson (Slette) and Ingeborg (Rugland) Slette, his wife, natives of Norway, who, in 1856, brought him to Freeborn county, where he received a district school education. Since his boyhood days he has followed farming as a pursuit. He was married to Mariet Bakke and their union has been blessed with three children. They are Ingeborg Othelia, who is now engaged in teaching; Oscar and Henry, at home. Mr. Slette is a Lutheran in his religious affiliations, and in politics he is a Republican. He lives on the farm which his father preëmpted from the United States government in 1856. The 285 broad and beautiful acres are all under cultivation or in pasturage and a fine farm residence and spacious barns make it one of the attractive and valuable country homes in Freeborn county.

**F. H. Pierce** was born in Floyd county, Iowa, on November 1, 1869, son of C. W. and Susan Jane (Gordon) Pierce. His father was a native of New York state and his mother of Pennsylvania. C. W. Pierce was a blacksmith by trade and left New York to go to Indiana, where he followed his trade, later going to Illinois, and finally to Iowa, where he worked at his trade till the time of his death, in 1907. The mother died when the subject of this biography was but two years of age, and he was taken by W. H. H. Gordon, in whose home he grew up. After completing his school work he took up the trade of carpenter and wagonmaker, and some years later he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1890 he established a blacksmith and wagon shop at Gordonsville, and also about this time he established the general store of F. H. Pierce, which he conducted ten years in Gordonsville. He sold out his general store and has since given his attention to the manufacture of wagons, sleighs, and harrows, for which there has been a steady market. In 1893 he was married to Mary L.



Flatt, a daughter of J. R. Flatt, who is a native of England, but who came to Madison, Wis., and later to Shellrock township, this county, where he lived until his death. To Mr. and Mrs. Pierce two children have been born, Pearl Alice, who is fourteen years of age, and Charles H., aged ten. Mr. Pierce is a member of the M. E. Church. He is a Republican and has been a member of the school board for twelve years; he is now treasurer, and has served on the town board also. In 1908 he built a fine residence just outside the village limits of Gordonsville. Given plenty of room on his fifty-acre plot of land this home, which is modern in every respect, becomes one of the pleasing landmarks of the locality. He is a stockholder and director in the Farmers' State Bank of Gordonsville, and stockholder in the Gordonsville Creamery, and secretary of the Gordonsville Building Association.

**Andrew O. Korstad**, deceased, was born in Norway on March 20, 1832, where he grew to manhood, attended school and was married. In 1862, the subject of this sketch left the land of his birth and crossed the ocean to America. After his arrival in this country, he proceeded west to Minnesota, where he acquired land in Spring Grove, Houston county, where he resided and carried on farming for three years, after which he came to this county and settled in Freeman township, in section 8. Here he took a claim of 200 acres, which he developed by cultivation, and he erected a house and all the necessary buildings, and for the remainder of his life carried on general diversified farming. He won the respect of the residents of the township by his industrious habits and his common sense, and he served as a member of the school board for many years. He was a loyal supporter of the principles endorsed by the Democratic party, but was not a seeker of public office. Mr. Korstad was a stockholder in the Twin Lakes and Knatvold Creameries, and he owed his prosperity to his own efforts. In 1861, Inger Ristey became his wife; she was also a native of Norway, having been born there on August 16, 1839. To Mr. and Mrs. Korstad a family of ten children were born, of whom six grew to man and womanhood: Ole, of Freeman township; Caroline, who resides on the old home farm; Sina, who married Nicholas P. Nelson, of Albert Lea; Julia, who died in 1902, the wife of Thomas Hoveson; Marie and Ida, who are dressmakers and live at home. The wife and mother passed away on February 10, 1890, and Mr. Korstad's death occurred May 24, 1907. The family attend the Lutheran Church, having long been associated with this organization.

**Louis Fogel**, one of the prosperous farmers of Pickerel Lake township, is a native of Germany and was born in Waldeck, August 19, 1862. After getting his education and working a few years, he came to the United States when twenty years of age.





MR. AND MRS. ANDREW O. KORSTAD





He arrived in Freeborn county in March, 1882, and here worked out several years. During this time he, with native frugality, managed to keep most of the money he earned, and with this, in 1888, he purchased the land where he has since made his home. He here has erected a fine roomy and comfortable residence which is well shaded by the trees planted by the owner. The many barns, sheds and out buildings give ample space for housing the crops and equipment of the farm. His 160-acre farm is one of the best cultivated farms in the locality. On April 8, 1888, he married Fredericka Wittmer, also a native of Waldeck, Germany. Mr. Fogel is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes with the Republican party, and is at present chairman of the board of supervisors, which position he has held eight consecutive years. He was assessor four years, town treasurer five years. For eighteen years he was secretary of the Armstrong creamery. He is director of the State Bank in Albert Lea.

**August Lindeman**, who has passed his three score years and ten, was born in Germany, March 1, 1838, and in 1872 he came to the United States and settled in Illinois where he remained four years. He then came to Freeborn county and bought land in Pickerel Lake township where he lived twenty-five years. He is now living on a ninety-acre tract in section 18, Nunda, where he has lived for ten years, having started his children with a substantial inheritance of land. On April 1, 1861, he married Tillia Schwemly and to them have been born seven children, Ernest, Frank, Minnie, Willie, Eric, Bert and Mary. Mr. Lindeman is a Lutheran church member. In politics he is a Republican.

**O. K. Bagaasen**, an industrious farmer who for many years has resided in the township of Bancroft, is the son of K. O. and Elena (Larson) Bagaasen. The mother came to the United States from Norway in 1850 with her parents and they located in Wisconsin, and the father left the land of his birth and emigrated to this country five years later. When the war between the North and South began, the father enlisted and served his adopted country until the end of the struggle; he was honorably discharged and returned to his home and later was married. To this marriage four children were born; Martina, the wife of Ed Blagen, of Roseau county; Bertha, now Mrs. Anton Ingbritsen; Dora, the wife of Mr. Johnson, of the Albert Lea Creamery; O. K., the eldest, who is the subject of this biography and was born February 19, 1868. He owns 160 acres of land in Bancroft township and carries on general farming, and he is also interested to some extent in dairying; he keeps about twenty-five cows for this purpose and disposes of their milk to the Albert Lea Creamery. He lives in the comfortable house which his father erected, but he has built new and commodious barns and a silo, and in



many respects made his farm one of the well improved and valuable farms in the township. By his wife, Hanna, his home has been blessed by two children, Obie and Grant, the latter of whom is deceased. Mr. Bagaasen votes with the Republican party and has been elected to serve in various offices in his township, among which are his service as assessor for a term of four years, in which capacity he gave general satisfaction to the residents of the town. He is a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran church of Albert Lea, and a contributor to its support.

**F. L. Reynolds**, a progressive liveryman of Albert Lea, was born in Freeborn county in 1870 on the 25th of April, the son of Rastus and Adelia (Button) Reynolds, natives of New York state. Upon coming to Freeborn county, they followed farming for a number of years and spent the balance of their lives in Alden, Freeborn county, living retired since 1898. They had a family of nine children, seven of whom are still living. The subject of this sketch spent his early life on the farm and was educated in the schools of the county. He came to Albert Lea in 1889 and found work running a dray for one year and then went to work for Hayden & Co., where he remained for eight years as clerk. For the next two years he conducted a grocery business of his own. At this time Mr. Reynolds went into the livery business on Washington Street, where he stayed for five years, and in 1905 removed to his present quarters. The firm is known as Reynolds & Luce and it carries on a general livery, hack and baggage line. In 1892, Mr. Reynolds was married to Florence Gripman, daughter of Christ Gripman, an old settler of the county, who is still living on Newton Street, Albert Lea, and is interested in the wood, fuel and ice business. Mr. Reynolds is a member of the Maccabee and the I. O. O. F. lodges. He lives at 406 College Street. Mr. Reynolds is a very substantial and public spirited citizen of Albert Lea.

**Joseph H. Barlow** was born in Bancroft township June 14, 1859, son of Andrew and Annie Barlow, who came to this country from Germany. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and went to the district school near his home. He followed agricultural pursuits until 1900, at which time he went to Albert Lea and was employed by the J. I. Case Thresher Machine Company. For two years he traveled for this concern, after which he was assistant superintendent of the Albert Lea waterworks. He later resigned from this position and served on the police force in that city for more than two years. He returned to his old home on the farm after his resignation as a police officer and is now carrying on diversified farming. He owns eighty acres of land, having disposed of forty some time ago, and keeps his land under careful cultivation, and is interested in stock raising and dairying.



Mary A. Campin became his wife August 14, 1892, and to them four children have been born: Annie, Frank, Ethel and Margaret. Mr. Barlow's energy and marked ability have been recognized by his townsmen to the extent that they have elected him to serve as chairman of the town board of Bancroft for the past four years, also as town assessor, constable and road overseer. He has been clerk of school district 20 for nine years and also school treasurer. He is president of the Manchester Telephone Company and a director of the Farmers' Mutual Shipping Union. For twenty-two seasons, Mr. Barlow operated a threshing machine and he has ever been an energetic and hardworking man. He is a member of the Foresters lodge in Albert Lea, and he is the master of several languages, among which are Swedish, Norwegian, German and English. Mr. Barlow lost his devoted and estimable wife January 10, 1909, and his home is cared for by his daughters.

**M. F. Horning** was born in Pickerel Lake township June 21, 1868, and is one of the substantial and respected residents of Alden township. His parents were William J. and Esther (Johnston) Horning, the former of whom was a native of Herkimer county, New York, and came west with his people when he was twenty years old. The family located in Wisconsin, but later moved to Albert Lea, where the father is living now at four score and two years of age. M. F., the subject of this sketch, was educated in the common schools of Pickerel Lake and Albert Lea, and having acquired a good education, he taught school in the county for five years. He then decided to become a farmer and, securing some land in section 17, he engaged in this occupation, of which he has made a success. Mary Belle Hall, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Stockwell) Hall, married Mr. Horning, and this union has been blessed by the birth of three children: Leah, who is now teaching school in district 40; Esther P. and Lyle M. Mr. Horning is the present clerk of Alden township, and has held this office for the past six years; he has also been clerk of the school board for seven years and town assessor for years, thus proving the confidence and regard in which he is held by the residents of Alden.

**Lenny Peterson**, a successful farmer of Albert Lea township, was born August 20, 1875, son of Hans C. and Martha (Anstrum), who emigrated from Norway to America in the pioneer days and settled on a farm which adjoins the one now occupied by their son, the subject of this sketch, and here they spent the remainder of their lives; the husband died in 1894 and his widow four years later. In early boyhood, Mr. Peterson attended the district school and was busy during his vacation days helping his father with the farm work, which prepared him for the



responsibilities of a farmer's life. He now has 175 acres of land, of which 125 are kept under cultivation, and he carries on a general and dairy farming business. In addition to his dairy herd of graded cattle, he raises many Poland-China hogs, for which he finds ready market. Gunda Moen, daughter of Gilbert Moen, an old settler of Freeman township, became the wife of Mr. Peterson in 1896. He has held various public offices in his township and served on the school board. In politics he is a Republican of the progressive type. His fine house and commodious barns, also his well kept farm, are the reward of years of diligence and honest effort.

**N. C. Nelson**, who conducts a good painting business, was born in Albert Lea on May 9, 1875, son of S. J. and Mary, both natives of Denmark. They came to America in the year 1874, locating in Albert Lea, where he worked for three years, then bought a farm in Albert Lea township and did general farming until about 1906. At this time he sold his farm to his son and bought twenty acres one mile from Albert Lea, where he now makes his home. The mother died in 1889. The subject of this sketch attended the common schools of Albert Lea township and took one term at the Luther Academy of Albert Lea. Leaving school, he worked at the painter's trade in Albert Lea which work he followed for a number of years. In 1907, he entered partnership with J. J. Sullivan, where he continued one year. After selling out his interest he established a paint and wall paper business. He makes a specialty of automobile and carriage painting, having bought out the two concerns who did this class of work. He also does sign painting. Mr. Nelson was married to Emma Peterson in 1897. She was the daughter of C. P. Peterson, formerly of Omaha, and now of Albert Lea. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson's home has been blessed with three children, who are all at home—Lucille, Thelma and Hester. Mr. Nelson makes a specialty of raising fancy chickens—Partridge Wyandottes and Silver Lace Wyandottes. Mr. Nelson, in politics, is a Democrat. He attends the Christian Science church and is a member of the Danish Brotherhood of Owls. He is a progressive citizen.

**M. L. Olson**, grocer of Albert Lea, was born in Faribault county on March 1, 1869, the son of Lars and Susan (Lagred), natives of Norway. They came to America in 1856 and located in Wisconsin, where they farmed for three years, removing at the end of this time to Faribault county, Minnesota, where the father farmed until 1900. During this year he retired and moved to Wells, Minn., where he died in 1904. The mother still lives in Wells. The subject of this sketch gained his education in the district schools of Faribault county and in Wells, and upon leaving school worked in a grocery store for three and one-half



years. He then came to Albert Lea, where he worked until 1890. At this time he went into the general store of Nelson Bros., where he stayed until 1900. Mr. Olson entered the grocery, bakery and crockery business with Emil Nelson during this year, where he continued for three years, at the end of which period of time he bought out Mr. Nelson and has continued this business up to the present time. He conducts a very up-to-date grocery at 324 South Broad street. He also conducts a restaurant. Mr. Olson was married in 1895 to Eva Larson, daughter of John Larson, living south of Albert Lea. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson, Edlain and Marvel. The subject, in his political life, is a Republican, and in his church life attends the Swedish Baptist Church. He is a faithful member of the Maccabees Lodge. Mr. Olson never aspired to any public office. His pleasant home is situated at 509 Water street.

**Gilbert Thompson** was born in Norway November 18, 1844. He came to America with his parents in 1868 and located in New York, later moving to Chicago, where the subject of this biography was employed in a mill. From Chicago, Mr. Thompson went to Green Bay, Wis., and eventually came to Minnesota and settled in Grand Meadow. Here for several years he followed his trade as a shoemaker. Deciding to engage in farming, he moved to Newry township and rented a farm for one year, at the end of which time he purchased eighty acres in section 25. Gradually he has added to this farm until, at the present time, he owns 200 acres of well improved and fertile land. He has erected a large and comfortable house and follows general and dairy farming. He married Thora Lee on January 16, 1876, and they are the parents of six children: Sarah, the wife of A. Halgson; Thea, married William Cornelius; Andrew, Anna, Ephriam and George are at home. Mr. Thompson votes with the Republican party and attends the Lutheran Church and contributes to its support. He is an industrious and progressive man, respected by the residents of the community in which he has lived for so many years.

**John L. Munson**, city weighmaster for Albert Lea, was born in Sweden on December 20, 1856, the son of Lars and Engar. They were natives of Sweden, coming to America in 1876 and locating in Forest City, Iowa, where the father followed his trade as contractor until his death, in 1886. The mother died in 1885. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Forest City for three months, and this period covered all the schooling he ever received. After leaving school, he followed railroading as section boss for a while, and for ten years was bridge constructor for the Milwaukee road. He came to Albert Lea in 1871, remaining for one year. At this time Mr. Munson went to Granite Fall for two years, and then went back to Forest City, where he remained



until 1880. Coming back to Albert Lea, he followed carpentry until 1902, when he became city weighmaster, which position he has filled for the past eight years. He conducts a machine shop in connection with his other work. Mr. Munson was married in 1882 to Emma Axen, a native of Sweden, and to them have been born four children: Axel, killed in Milwaukee yards in Albert Lea in 1902; Steve, a mail clerk on the Great Northern, living in Duluth; Edith and Edna, both at home. Mr. Munson is an independent voter, and attends the Swedish Baptist Church. He is a member of the Scandinavian Relief of Red Wing—Equitable Fraternal Union of Neenah, Wis., and secretary of same—and also a member of the Woodmen of the World. Mr. Munson owns his splendid home at 514 Fourth street.

**Sever L. Davidson**, who is a native of Norway, was born October 17, 1858, and is the son of Lars and Guri, who brought their son to the United States, settling in Iowa in 1864, where they homesteaded 160 acres, and where they lived many years. The father died in 1897 and the mother in 1898. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Iowa and Minnesota and grew to manhood, doing the work of the average farm boy of this locality in those years. As his parents grew older he took charge of the home place, and at last bought it of them. He now owns 160 acres in section 35, town of Mansfield, and also owns sixty acres in Nunda. He here does dairy and general farming and raises a number of horses. In 1889 he married Emma Thompson, who died in 1899, and to them were born five children, four of whom are living and are at home. Lars died in infancy; Martha, Gertie, Andrew, and David. He married Mary, a sister of his first wife, and to them have been born four children: Emma, Bernard, Sarah and Lilian. Mr. Davidson is a Lutheran Church member. He votes with the Republican party, and has been school clerk in district 86 for eighteen years, assessor three years, supervisor three years, town treasurer three years and he is at present director in Emmons National Bank and also in the Farmers' Lumber Company of Emmons.

**J. E. Snyder**, the genial traveling salesman for Farwell, Ozmum, Kirk & Co., hardware firm of St. Paul, was born at LaPort, Ind., March 10, 1865, the son of Michael Snyder. Michael Snyder was a native of New York state, and in young manhood, went to Indiana, and in 1873 came west to Worthington, Nobles county, Minnesota. John E., the subject of this sketch received his education in the Nobles county common schools, and later in the high school of Fulda. Having completed his school education he entered the insurance business. After some years he left the insurance business and was employed by the Peavey Grain Company, at Avoca, in which line he continued for seven years. Since



that time he has been with his present company in the hardware business, and with them, covers the territory of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. In January, 1906, he married Mabel Scott, of Madison, S. D. He is a member of the U. T. C., and being socially inclined, is a member of the K. of P. Lodge. Mr. Snyder is a progressive in politics, but has never taken an active part in political affairs.

**Thomas B. English**, a prosperous and highly respected farmer of Bancroft township, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, March 23, 1856, son of William and Frances M. (Boulden) English. In 1858 he was brought to Minnesota by his parents, who settled in Bancroft township. Here the subject of this sketch grew to manhood and acquired his education and worked at farming with his father. Three years previous to the death of his father, Mr. English bought 160 acres of the home farm, and assumed the responsibility of its management. He cultivated the land and made many improvements on the place, erecting new and commodious barns and outbuildings, and building a silo. Since purchasing this property he has also bought 116½ acres located in sections 15 and 22. He farms all his land believing in modern methods, and he makes a specialty of raising pure bred Durham and Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs, and good horses for both work and driving purposes. Mr. English has been elected to serve his town as supervisor of the town board, school director of district 23, and for twenty years he has been a member of the Bancroft Creamery board, and also a director in this organization. He is a stockholder in the Clarks Grove Hardware, Stove and Implement Company, and in every respect he is a self-made man who has the esteem of his fellow citizens. He married Lottie Ostrander, who was born in Nebraska, their marriage being solemnized December 24, 1887. To them five children have been born: Ash B., Wallace L., Mabel R., Nora M., and an infant who died before being named. Mr. English belongs to the Republican party, whose principles he heartily endorses. The family attend the Presbyterian Church, of which they are members in good standing.

**William English** was born in England and he crossed the ocean and landed in Canada when but a small boy. There he grew to manhood and was educated, and later married Frances M. Boulden, who was also of English birth and parentage. They came to the States at an early day and settled in New York, where Mr. English worked in a rolling mill as an iron smelter for eight years, then followed his trade as stone mason until 1858, when he, with his wife and family, came west and located in Minnesota. They came to Freeborn county from Wisconsin by means of an ox team, and they settled on a claim of 160 acres in sections



15 and 22, Bancroft township. Mr. English did not prove up on this land, but purchased 160 acres from William Clark in section 14. He broke this land and cultivated it and erected the necessary buildings, and for many years engaged in general farming. He passed away on May 28, 1896, and his widow still resides on the old homestead with her son, Thomas. To Mr. and Mrs. English seven children were born, of whom, William Henry, is deceased; Mary is the widow of Henry Thompson, of Albert Lea; Thomas B., is a prosperous farmer of Bancroft; Robert died when but thirteen months of age; Robert the second resides in Polk county, Minnesota; Leighty lives in Glenville, and Annie is the wife of J. E. Jenson, of Bancroft.

**Walter C. Jackman**, who for several years has served the village of Freeborn as director of the school board, was born in the township of Carlston August 27, 1865, son of Nathan and Sarah W. (Bumpus) Jackman, natives of New Hampshire. His boyhood years were spent as are the early years of the average farm boy, by attending the district school near his home and working for his father on the farm. When he had reached manhood he learned to drill wells, and for twenty years was engaged in this occupation. He then moved into the village of Freeborn and now conducts a farm implement business, in which he is making a success. He married Florence E. Ingalls, daughter of John and Sarah (Emerson) Ingalls, and one child, Beryl, has blessed their home. Mr. Jackman is a progressive and industrious man, who is well thought of in the community in which he makes him home.

**Nathan Jackman**, deceased, was among the pioneer residents of Carlston, coming to this township in 1859. He was born in New Hampshire in 1829, and when he was fifteen years of age he went out to work by the month. For ten years he was employed as a carpenter and also farmer. Later he left his native state and came west. He located first in Wisconsin remaining there a number of years, after which he came to Carlston, making the trip with a team of horses and bringing with him two yoke of oxen. He erected a plank shanty on the claim which he had preëmpted, and here, with his family, he lived for thirteen years. As he toiled and prospered he was able to build a good comfortable house and barns, but these were destroyed by fire in 1874. Mr. Jackman married Sarah Bumpus in 1854, and to them were born four children: Roxanna, Josephine, Ella and Walter. In 1898 he retired from the arduous toil of the farm and moved into Freeborn village, and here he was summoned by the Grim Reaper January 16, 1910.

**Hans C. Jacobsen**, a respected farmer of Freeborn township, was born in Denmark, Isle of Moen, February 14, 1841, and came



to America when he was twenty-four years old. He landed at Boston, and from there came west to Racine, Wis., and here secured employment for several years. He then went to Indiana, where he engaged in farming for about two years, after which he returned to the land of his birth, remained there several months and again sailed for America, bringing with him his mother. They settled in Carlston, where he rented a farm in section 13, on which they lived for five years. Mr. Jacobson then homesteaded the farm on which is his home at the present time, and has here resided for the past twenty years. His aged mother entered into rest in 1902, and is survived by Hans C., Hans G., living in Indianapolis, and Mrs. Lizzie Jacobsen, residing in Freeborn township.

**George E. Jones**, an estimable and well-known farmer of Freeborn township, was born in Carlston, Minn., June 7, 1864, son of Josiah and Mary (Williams) Jones, early settlers in the county. They were natives of New York state, who came to Wisconsin in 1855 where they remained for one year, after which they moved to Carlston and engaged in general farming. In 1903 the father moved into Alden, where he makes his home at the present time, at the advanced age of 82 years. George E., the subject of this biography, spent his boyhood as the ordinary farmer boy spends his early years, in going to school and assisting his father with the farm work. After leaving school he began farming on his own responsibility and has been most successful in this undertaking, and now owns the farm on which he resides. He married May Banker, daughter of S. M. and Nettie Banker, and to this marriage have been born five children: George W., Burr M., Jennie M., Lloyd E., and Marion A. Mr. Jones's abilities have been recognized by his fellow citizens to the extent that he has been elected chairman of the board of supervisors of his town, an office which he held many years, and has been retained as a member of the school board for a period of time.

**W. H. Hall**, proprietor of the Ideal Restaurant in Albert Lea, was born at St. Clair, Minn., on January 31, 1880, the son of Thomas and May Hall, natives of Michigan and St. Clair respectively. The father was a dealer in real estate. He came to Minnesota in 1878 and located in St. Clair, where he resided for seventeen years. At the end of this period, he removed to Alexandria, Minn., remaining there several years. For four years following his residence in Alexandria, he lived in Salem, Ore., and in the fall of 1910, returned to Albert Lea, where he lives in retirement. The subject of this sketch attended the graded schools of St. Clair and High School of Mankato. When he left school he worked on the railroad until 1906, and then farmed for two years. The two following years Mr. Hall spent in Montana, Washington and



Oregon. In January, 1910, he came to Albert Lea and established the Ideal Restaurant, located on West Main Street. Mr. Hall continued at this place until his business grew to such an extent that larger quarters were necessary. He then moved to 325 South Broadway, where he now conducts a first class short order restaurant and lunch counter cafe. In 1908, Stella Rasdall, of St. Clair, became the wife of Mr. Hall. Their one child, Leah May, died. Mr. Hall is a Republican in politics and a member of the K. of P. and Owls.

**Samuel Landis**, deceased, was for many years one of the prominent citizens of Hayward township. He was born in Medina county, Ohio, on May 4, 1838, son of Jacob and Susan Landis, natives of Pennsylvania, with whom he went to Williams county, where he attended school and grew to manhood. In 1857, the subject of this biography came to Minnesota and settled in Fari-bault county, where he remained until the Indian outbreak in 1862, then returning to his old home in Ohio. He there enlisted in Company K, 109 Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry in which he fought in many battles and skirmishes, and served until the close of the Civil War, after which he was honorably discharged and returned to Ohio. In 1867, Mr. Landis came again to Minnesota and this time he located in Freeborn county, purchased a farm of 160 acres in Hayward township and began farming. He made many improvements on his property, erected a comfortable house, good barns and outbuildings, and carried on general diversified farming until 1898. At this time, Mr. Landis sold his farm and moved to Albert Lea, where he purchased a home at 311 East Third Street, and lived in retirement for the remainder of his life, his death occurring May 15, 1906. Mr. Landis was a staunch Republican and held many public offices, among which were treasurer of the school board, also clerk and director of school in Hayward. He was a member of the G. A. R., Robson Post No. 5, of Albert Lea, and vitally interested in all movements toward the betterment of his town and county. On December 21, 1865, he was united in marriage with Eva Smith, who was a daughter of Valentine M. and Fannie (Phillips) Smith, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Landis was born at New Philadelphia on November 19, 1842, where she was educated and made her home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Landis were the parents of three children, of whom Nancy M. is the wife of Edwin Brown, of Montana, and they have four children, Hazel, Mary, Eva and Edwin; Eva married Eugene Noyes, of Michigan; to them have been born three children, Bernice, Grace and Gladys; Nettie married William McLellan and lives in Montana. The family were brought up as members of the United Brethren church, of which Mr. Landis was a liberal supporter.



**Peter Hansen**, manager of the Coleman Lumber Co., of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark February 27, 1848, son of H. J. and Kristine (Jacobson) Johansen. He was educated in the schools of his native land and came to America in 1869, locating in this county. For several years after his arrival here Mr. Hansen worked at farming, after which he was employed by a railroad. In 1873 he went to Blue Earth county, where he worked in a sawmill for two years, after which he was employed by Hyde Cargill Co., in an elevator in Alden, where he remained for six years. In 1879, Mr. Hansen went to Carlston township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, which he has cultivated and made more valuable each year. He erected necessary buildings, developed his land and added to it from time to time until at present the farm comprises 200 acres. In 1885 he accepted a position with C. L. Coleman in the lumber business, and after the death of the latter, Mr. Hansen remained with the firm in Alden until 1909, when they moved him to Albert Lea to take charge of their business there, where he is still retained in the capacity of manager. Mr. Hansen votes with the Republican party, and he has held many responsible offices in the township where he has lived, serving in Alden as village recorder for thirteen years, and also as member of the school board for a period of six years. December 16, 1879, Mr. Hansen married Ida M. Nelson, and to them have been born six children, of whom, Alma teaches music in the Pacific Luther College at Parkland, Washington; Tillie is the wife of J. A. Jensen, of Minneapolis; Mabel teaches school in Washington; Victor is cashier at Mankato, Minn., for the C., M. & St. P. R. R., and Edward is cashier for the C. M. & St. P. R. R. in Washington state; Theodore is a student at the University of Minnesota. The family is affiliated with the Lutheran church.

H. J. Johansen, deceased, was born in Denmark. In 1881 he came to America with his wife and family, and upon their arrival in this country they proceeded west to Carlston township, Minnesota. Here, for many years, they made their home with their son, Peter. The mother, Kristine Jacobson Johansen, passed away in 1894, and in 1906 Mr. Johansen went to Chicago and resided with his daughter, Mrs. Peter Matsen, until the time of his death, which occurred in 1910.

**Alfred Berglund** was born December 17, 1871, on the old homestead where he resides at the present time, son of John Berglund. When a boy, the subject of this biography attended the country school near his home and after completing his studies he took up farming with his father. In 1899, he purchased the old homestead, which comprised 160 acres, located in section 27, and to this he later added thirty-five acres, in section 21 and also eighty acres, in section 28, thus making a total of 275 acres. He



carries on general diversified farming and dairying, and makes a specialty of raising pure bred Holstein cattle. He is one of the scientific and successful farmers in the township of Albert Lea. Politically, Mr. Berghund affiliates with those who advance independent views, and he has never sought public office. On June 14, 1898, Sadie C. Olund became his wife. She is a daughter of John and Gertie E. (Nelson) Olund, who reside at Cambridge, Isanti county, Minnesota, and she was born in Sweden on July 6, 1873, and came to America in 1880. To Mr. and Mrs. Berghund five children have been born, John R., who died in infancy; Olive E., born March 4, 1902; Pearl M., born November 9, 1904; Mary D., born January 1, 1907, and Mildred S., who was born March 25, 1911. The family attend the Baptist church and are liberal contributors to its support.

**Ralph O. Olson**, the popular banker of Alden, is a son of M. and Anna Olson, early settlers of Faribault county. His father is still engaged in a stock and grain business at Wells, Minn., and having lived here forty-five years, he has many interesting stories which he relates of the early days when he came to Minnesota, and white settlers were so few. Ralph, his son, was born in 1873, and early showed his preference for the banking business, and while attending school he worked at intervals in the bank of his home town. He graduated from high school in 1892 and then gave his entire attention to banking, working hard to perfect himself in its numerous duties. Two years later he came to Alden where he bought out the interest in a private bank and organized a State Bank in its place. This continued as a State Bank until 1903, when it was reorganized as the First National Bank of Alden, which has a capital of \$30,000 and a surplus of \$15,000. Genevieve Larson became his wife in 1895, and two children bless their home; Ralph, Jr., and Barbara. Aside from the position of cashier, which he occupies in the Alden bank, he has interests in the following banks: State Bank of Kiester, State Bank of Walters, also State Bank of Conger.

Mr. Olson is a conscientious and hardworking man, who makes every moment count in advancing, not alone his own interests, but the interests of those with whom he has business dealings and the many who come to him for advice and counsel. He is a member of the M. W. A. and M. B. A.

**F. W. Rafoth** is one of the few people who were born on February 29, 1880. His parents, Herman and Frederika, came from Germany to America in 1870, and settled in Dubuque, Iowa, where they lived three or four years, then came to Freeborn township, this county. The elder Rafoth here rented and later bought land and followed farming the remainder of his life. After his death in 1899, the mother continued to live on the



home place. Fred W. was born on the home farm in 1880, and here grew to manhood, attending the local school and assisting his father on the farm. After his father's death he took charge of the farm and has since conducted it successfully. He married Matie Hansen, and to them has been born one son, Dewzel G., who attends school. Mr. Rafoth has a well kept farm of 160 acres and a comfortable dwelling as well as barns, sheds, and other out-buildings, which are necessary to the best methods of handling stock and farm products. He has given much attention to breeding Shorthorn cattle, but of late has given attention to the Holstein breed, which he at present favors.

**M. T. Russ**, who cultivates fertile acres in Freeborn township, was born in Franklin county, New York, August 8, 1861. He is the son of Thomas and Melissa (Miller) Russ. His father was born in Vermont. The subject of this sketch came west and first located in Faribault county, Minnesota, in 1878. He worked there a year, then went to Alden township, Freeborn county, where he was in the employ of M. J. Howe for over ten years. In July, 1895, Mr. Russ located on 160 acres of land in Freeborn township, which he had previously purchased, and this has ever since been his home. He married Bertha Rucker, a native of Germany. They have three children, Belva M., Mary J., and Sidney T.

**Thomas Severson**, who lives on section 31, Nunda township, was born there February 13, 1866, the son of Sever and Martha Anderson. His parents were among the early settlers of Freeborn county and were natives of Norway, and by hard work, made themselves and their son a good home, which he today is proud to remember was the homestead originally acquired. The subject of this biography received his education in the common schools of the locality, and when sixteen years of age he left school and worked on the home place with his father. When twenty-one years of age he bought 180 acres of land in northern Iowa which adjoins the old homestead, and on these two farms he has followed general farming, together with dairy farming. He built a comfortable dwelling, and in 1911 built a large barn to meet the need of his herd of dairy cows, as well as giving him room for properly housing his other stock and his increasing products of the farm. On February 14, 1910 he married Annie Tisdell, of Brookings, S. D. Mr. Severson is a Lutheran Church member and attends at Lime Creek. He votes the Republican ticket.

**N. C. Siverling** was born in Wisconsin December 28, 1872, son of Nick and Mary Siverling. His father was a native of Germany, who came to the United States with his parents in the early days, and the family settled in Wisconsin. Here he was married and



made his home for several years, after which, in 1877, he went to Iowa, and in 1898 moved to North Dakota, and is living there at present. The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of Iowa and completed his education in the graded school at Northwood. After leaving school he decided to learn to be an expert butter maker, and accordingly prepared himself to fill this position. For the past six years he has been employed as the head butter maker in the Glenville Creamery. In 1894 he was married to Jennie Trow, and their home has been brightened by the arrival of two children, Milo T. and Lilla M. Mr. Siverling is a prominent man in the township and is at the present time chief of the fire department. He has served as president of the school board and also president of the city council. He is a member of the M. W. A. and votes the Republican ticket.

**Oscar Asleson** is a prosperous farmer residing in Freeman township. He was born in Manchester January 29, 1869, son of John and Ingerborg Asleson, natives of Norway, who came to this township in the early days and were industrious farmers. The father died in 1909. The subject of this sketch assisted his father with the farm work when a boy, and attended school near his home. When he was twenty-three years of age he purchased 160 acres in section 26, Freeman township. Here Mr. Asleson has a well-kept farm and he raises Poland-China hogs, owns a fine dairy herd of short horn cattle and keeps well-bred Percheron horses. About seventy acres of his land is cultivated and his farm is one of the best cared for farms in his community. He is affiliated with the Republican party, and he attends the Lutheran Church. Tilda Opdahl, daughter of Ole Ophahl, married Mr. Asleson in 1893, and six children have been born to them to brighten their home: Joseph, Olaf, Elmer, William, Rachel and Luella. These children are all at home and of great assistance to their parents.

**Barney Cookpeter**, who is of German ancestry, was born in Iowa February 20, 1856, son of Christian and Elizabeth Cookpeter. His parents immigrated to the United States in 1853, locating first at West Point, Iowa, where his father worked at his trade of carpentry one year. They later rented a farm until 1870, at which time they came to Winona county, Minnesota, where they farmed eight years, and later moved to Freeborn county. They bought 160 acres of land in Freeman township, and later added another quarter section to their farm, where they followed general farming until the death of the father, in 1884. After finishing school Barney worked with his father on the home farm, until the father's failing health made it necessary for him to assume full charge. Since the father's death the subject of this biography, together with his brothers, Henry and



Christian, and sister, Margaret, have lived on the family farm and followed general farming. The Cookpeter brothers are independent voters. The subject of this sketch has been town supervisor five successive years. He is a member and active worker in the Catholic Church.

**James S. Brewer** was born in Buchanan county, Iowa, March 30, 1875, son of James S. and Eliza J. (Carpenter) Brewer. He passed the days of his youth working with his father on the old home farm, going to school in the district in which he lived. Reaching manhood, he left the old home and began farming for himself. This occupation he followed for several years, after which he secured a position on a railroad. Desiring a more lucrative position than the railroad offered, he resigned and proceeded to fit himself for a first-class butter maker. He has since been employed in this capacity in the Twin Lakes, Clover and Walters creameries. He moved to Alden township in 1906 and has here been engaged in general farming, an occupation which he has found most profitable. His wife, Martha, is the daughter of August Wichman, one of the earliest settlers in this county, and to Mr. and Mrs. Brewer three children have been born: Ida, Marie and Theodore. Mr. Brewer is a hard working and progressive man who has devoted more time to the betterment of his home and farm than to seeking public offices.

**John C. Miller** was born in Freeborn township January 30, 1881, son of G. M. and Abby (Scoville) Miller. He spent his boyhood in Freeborn and was educated in the common schools of that township. After leaving school he started to earn his own living and for a time was employed in a creamery. He left the creamery and secured a position as clerk in a store. For several years he was engaged in various occupations, and in 1905 he came back to the old home farm, which he and his brother, Ralph, rented of their father, and he has since resided here. He carries on general and dairy farming and keeps the land under careful cultivation. His wife was Margaret Downs, a daughter of E. B. Downs, and they are the parents of one child, Clifford B.

**George M. Miller** was a native of Wisconsin, who came to Minnesota in the pioneer days and settled in Steele county, near Beaver Lake, where he conducted a store, and later had charge of a cheese factory. Disposing of these interests, he came to Carlson township and rented a farm in section 5, and followed general farming. His hard work and frugality enabled him to purchase this farm in 1900, and he has since made many improvements on his property and erected a comfortable dwelling and substantial out buildings. For many years Mr. Miller was one of the prominent farmers in the township and his farm was one of the well cared for and productive pieces of property in the



community. He married Abby (Scoville) Miller and their sons, John C. and Ralph, now have charge of the farm. Mr. Miller is at present residing in Fairmount.

**Hans P. Birch**, a progressive farmer, residing in the township of Carlston, was born in Denmark in September, 1852. He left his native land and crossed the ocean to America in 1880 and settled first in Wisconsin. Here he was employed in the pine woods, and also worked in a sawmill for four years, after which he came to Minnesota and located in Carlston township, bought a farm of eighty-five acres, which he now has under good cultivation. He has erected a comfortable house, good barns, and other necessary buildings on his farm, and carries on diversified farming, together with stock raising and dairying. He is an industrious man who has given his time and energy to the betterment of his farm and home surroundings and he has never aspired to public office. His wife, Dorothea, has proven an estimable helpmeet.

**John W. McDonald** is an extensive land owner in Geneva township, where he was born March 6, 1869. His parents were Patrick and Bridget (Ryan) McDonald, early settlers in this country. John W. began his education in the common schools of that locality, and having completed their course of study, he attended the Pillsbury Academy in Owatonna, and later the Business College at Decorah, Iowa. After leaving school he secured a position as clerk in the Gage, Hayden & Company's store, where he was employed for a time, after which he worked for the Knatvold hardware firm in Albert Lea. Realizing that the life of a farmer appealed most strongly to him, he returned to his old home and purchased some land, and has since added to this until he has 480 acres in all, part of which he rents. Mr. McDonald does general farming and raises Shropshire sheep and Poland-China hogs. He also has a good dairy herd of shorthorn cows. He was married February 14, 1897, to Catherine Quinn, daughter of Michael and Margaret (Shay) Quinn, natives of Ireland and early settlers in this country, both of whom are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. McDonald five children have been born: Raymond, Leo, Paul, Mark and Harold. In politics he votes independently. He has served on the school board for many terms, in which capacity he has given general satisfaction. He is a member of the Catholic Church at Geneva and a member of the Hibernians and Catholic Order of Foresters, also a K. O. T. M. In every respect Mr. McDonald is a self-made man and he can relate many incidents of greatest interest of the early days in this locality when the prosperity which now abounds was then unknown. As a popular citizen, he has many friends, while integrity and com-



mon sense have won the esteem of all who know him and his judgment and advice are often sought. .

**Patrick McDonald** and his worthy helpmate, Bridget (Ryan) McDonald, came to this country from Ireland in the pioneer days and first located in Minneapolis, where the husband was employed as a teamster for some time. He came to Geneva township in 1857, where he settled and acquired land in section 22, on which he followed farming until his death which occurred in 1901. To himself and wife were born two children, John W. and Mary Alice, now deceased. Mrs. McDonald passed away in 1897. The memory of these estimable people is revered by all who knew them. Having risen above obstacles and succeeded in establishing a home where they could give to their children advantages which were impossible in their younger days.

**Nels Vollum**, whose estimable parents were natives of Norway and came to this country about 1865, was born in Riceland township April 20, 1882. His father and mother, after reaching this country, lived in several places, finally locating in Riceland township, Freeborn county, where they bought land and founded their home. Until the time of his death, which occurred in March, 1910, the father did general farming. The wife and mother still lives on the old home farm, and with her are her aged father and mother. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools of Riceland and worked on the farm with his father. In 1900 he rented 160 acres of land in section 20, which he continued to rent and work until 1907, when he purchased it. He has since made many improvements on his property and built two barns. He does a general dairy farming. In 1903 he was married to Betina Prestegard, daughter of Ole J. Prestegard, of Hayward township; to this union have been born three children, Pearl, Telmer, and Norman. Mr. Vollum votes with the Republican party, but he does not give much time to politics, as he has many business interests, being manager of, as well as stockholder in, the Riceland Creamery. He is also a stockholder in the local telephone company. He is a staunch member of the Lutheran Church, and held in high esteem by those with whom he has business dealings.

**Louis Kroessin**, who conducts a harness business in Albert Lea, is a native of Germany, having been born there October 28, 1860. His father and mother, August and Hanna Kroessin, lived in Germany until they died. Louis attended school in his native land, and upon leaving his studies followed the saddlery business until he came to America, with the exception of three years when he was in the German army. Coming to America in 1882, he located in Winona, Minn., where he followed his trade for a short time. Mr. Kroessin then removed to St. Charles, Minn.,



staying there two years. At the end of this time he went to Sauk Center, establishing himself in the harness business, which he followed until 1905. During this year, he came to Albert Lea, again starting in the harness trade, and he has conducted the same business ever since. In the year 1885, Mr. Kroessin was united in marriage to Mary Wagman, of St. Charles. To them have been born three children, Louis, Jr., Walter, and Rose. In his political life he is a Republican. He attends the Presbyterian Church, and is a member of the M. W. A. Lodge. Mr. Kroessin has served faithfully on the city health board. He owns a most beautiful home at Edgewater, where he makes a specialty of raising fine poultry—the China Ring Neck Pheasants, and the Golden Pheasants, which are valued for their plumage. Mr. Kroessin ships them all over the country.

**Ole J. Dammen** was born in Norway February 27, 1857, son of John and Mary. When he was thirteen years old his parents decided to leave the land of their birth and seek their fortune in a new country, accordingly they embarked for America, and upon arriving in the United States, they proceeded west and made their first home in Minnesota, locating in Houston county. Three years later they moved to Hayward township, where they reside now at the advanced age of four score and eight years. Ole, their son, received his education partially in the schools of his fatherland and later in the Minnesota schools. Josie Rood, a daughter of Oscar Rood, became Mrs. Dammen in 1879, and this union resulted in the following children: Julius, deceased, was in the army and went to the Philippines, where he contracted an illness which resulted in his death; Oscar makes his home in Albert Lea and is employed by the Rock Island railroad; Edgar is a successful druggist in Portland, Ore.; Mabel G. married Martin Flaskerud and lives in Albert Lea township. In 1896 Mr. Dammen married Julia Vestland, and they are the parents of five children: Olaf, Mainard, Edna, Millie and Henry. Mr. Dammen owns 120 acres of land and successfully engages in diversified farming. He sells his dairy products to the Glenville Coöperative Creamery, of which he is a stockholder. He raises shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and has about 100 acres of his farm under cultivation. He adheres to the tenets of the Republican party and attends divine worship at the Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. He has reached his present prosperity by years of hard work and frugality, relying entirely on his own efforts to succeed, toiling and saving day by day. He now reaps the harvest of comfort and plenty.

**James Olson**, a progressive farmer residing in Albert Lea township, was born in Denmark, March 29, 1855, son of Ole and Anna (Nelson). He came to America with his parents and settled in La Crosse, Wis., where his parents remained until their



death. Having finished his schooling in his native country, he learned stonecutting in La Crosse and worked at this trade for fifteen years. He then went to Minneapolis, where he followed this same occupation for a period of years. In 1894, he left Minneapolis and came to Albert Lea and rented some land, engaged in farming, and ten years later he purchased 120 acres two miles from Albert Lea, on which he now resides. This farm Mr. Olson has under careful cultivation, carrying on diversified farming. His good herd of dairy cattle yield him a steady income. Bertha Berglund became his wife in 1881, and they are the parents of eight children: John R., Elmore, Leonard, Adelia, Adabella, Eunice, Agnes and Raymond. In politics, Mr. Olson holds independent views. He is a member of M. W. A. Lodge, No. 835. His well improved farm today is the result of his own efforts, having devoted much attention toward making his home comfortable and attractive.

**Theodore J. Burton** has for many years been a resident of the village of Alden. He was born in Vermont, in the city of St. Albans, July 16, 1855, son of Carlas C. and Lemira S. (Blinn) Burton. He acquired his education in the schools of Vermont, and when he was twenty-one years of age, came west in 1876, with his father and located in Alden. Some time later he went to Wells, Faribault county, where he engaged in the grocery business for three years, after which he directed his time and attention to farming. A few years later he returned to the old home in Vermont and followed agricultural pursuits, but at the end of three years he decided that there were greater opportunities for a young man in the west than were offered in the east. He then went to California and was employed as foreman on a sheep ranch for a year, after which he again came to Alden and has resided here since. For many years he conducted a mercantile business. In 1906 he sold out his interest in the business and now is temporarily employed in a grocery store. To Mr. Burton and his wife, Susie (Babcock) Burton, have been born four children: Harriet, wife of Ed Ashley, of Thief River Falls; Lois, a teacher in that city; Sidney and Cedric, who make their home in Alden. Mr. Burton has held the office of town assessor for many years and has also been appointed as census enumerator. He is a member of the M. W. A. and a man respected by his fellow citizens.

**Arthur E. Rodsater**, a well known farmer residing in Manchester township, was born February 20, 1879, son of Iver and Ingeborg (Anderson) Rodsater. His boyhood days were spent in attending school and in doing the work which the average farm boy is required by his father to do, preparing him for the multitudinous duties of a farmer's life and thus laying the foun-



dation for his future success. When he reached his majority he rented a farm and there put into practice the knowledge acquired in the years spent assisting his father. After living on this property for five years he bought it and has followed diversified farming here most successfully. May 2, 1900, he married Inga Stensrud, a daughter of Hans Stensrud, a farmer of Freeborn township, and three children brightened their home: Ivan, Ingeborg and Constance. Mr. Rodsater is one of the organizers of the local telephone company and held the position as its secretary for a period of five years. He has also acted as township assessor for five years, an office which he most ably filled, and while his numerous interests prevent his taking an active part in politics, he votes with the Republican party, and is a respected member of the Lutheran church.

**Carlton Babbitt**, an extensive land owner of Freeborn county, was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, March 17, 1860, son of Harvey and Maria (Griswold) Babbitt, who brought him to Freeborn county in 1865. He received his early education in a little sod schoolhouse in Alden township, and later attended other rural schools of Freeborn county, remaining on the home farm with his father until 1885, when he moved to the city of Albert Lea, and for thirteen years conducted a wood, coal and ice business. The following years he spent in various activities in the county, and in 1904 located on a farm of 160 acres, in section 26, Alden township, where he still resides. He has erected a fine modern home, and some excellent barns and outbuildings. Mr. Babbitt owns more than a thousand acres of good land in Freeborn county, and at this writing is working 740 acres himself, thus establishing a record hard to beat in Southern Minnesota. He is interested in every enterprise that tends toward the development of the community, and has served several years as a school board member. In addition to his land interests, Mr. Babbitt holds stock in the Creamery at Conger. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America at Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch was married November 8, 1883, to Lydia Gustaveson, who was born in Sweden, March 29, 1864, and came to America with her brother, Samuel S., in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Babbitt are the parents of four children: Harry LeRoy, of Judas Basin, Montana; Lee, Orie and Russell are at home. The family faith is that of the Baptist church. Mr. Babbitt tells an interesting story of the blizzard of 1873. On January 3, 1873, just as school closed, the storm started, and in less time than it takes to tell it the scholars could not see across the road. The storm raged so fiercely that of the scholars the subject of this sketch, then thirteen years old, was the only one to get home. The rest of the scholars and the teacher were obliged to stay for three days. They had no food nor fuel,





MR. AND MRS. CARLTON BABBITT









MR. AND MRS. N. T. SANDBURG



and were obliged to cut the rafters from the inside of the roof to furnish fire to keep themselves warm. The schoolhouse was of sod, and the rafters had been put in to support the sod roof.

**Harvey Babbitt**, who was born in Jersey City, N. J., and Maria Griswold, his wife, who was born in New York state, parents of Carlton Babbitt, after spending some years in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, settled in Columbia county, Wisconsin, and lived there until 1865, when they came by team to Freeborn county, and located in Mansfield township. The following year they took a claim in section 25, Alden township, where they erected a log cabin, broke and developed the land, and prospered with the years, building in time a frame house, and there spending the remainder of their days, devoting their life to general farming. Harvey Babbitt died February 19, 1896, and his wife followed him to the grave April 6, 1909. They were the parents of nine children: Mary is the widow of William Squier, of Montgomery, Minn., Frances is now Mrs. Edward Ells, of Goodhue county, Minnesota; George lives in Forest City, Iowa; Emma, deceased, was the wife of S. Nichols. Fred lives in Minneapolis. Albert lives in Skyburg, Goodhue county, this state. Helen and Eva are deceased. Carlton lives in Alden township.

**Gustaf Gustaveson** and Banta, his wife, parents of Mrs. Carlton Babbitt, natives of Sweden, came to America in 1880, and located in Freeborn county, where they engaged in farming in Alden township for a number of years, after which they retired and moved to the city of Albert Lea, where Gustaf died in May, 1907, his widow still surviving, and making her home in that city.

**Nicholas Theodore Sandburg**, now deceased, for many years an honored resident of Freeborn county, was born in Norway (Trondhjem), October 31, 1831, son of Nicholas and Trina Sandburg, the former of whom was a merchant. Nicholas received his education in his native land, and fitted himself for a clerical position. He and his brother came to America in 1849, and after a short stay in New York located in Milwaukee, where Nicholas learned engineering and worked in the sawmills and on the lakes about two years. In 1851 he went to Illinois, where he engaged in railroad building for three years, subcontracting grading work from different companies, working on the roadbed between various points in Illinois. In 1854 he moved to Decorah, Iowa, and worked at teaming and boating. In the spring of 1858, he came to Minnesota, and for a few months was employed as a miller at the old village of Fairfield, on Rice lake, near where Lerdal is now located. For a number of years he was the only engineer in Freeborn county. A few months after coming to this county he located on section 36, Bancroft township, where he lived for a year. Then he moved to Shell Rock, and engaged in the milling



business there for a year and a half. Subsequently he moved back to Bancroft, and located on section 22, where he lived until 1899, when he sold his farm of 320 acres, and moved to Albert Lea, poor health being the cause of his leaving the farm. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Company F, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was soon promoted to corporal. He was discharged in 1865 at Savannah, Georgia, and mustered out at Ft. Snelling. Mr. Sandburg never missed a battle or skirmish in which his company participated while he was under arms. He escaped without a wound, but attributed his subsequent poor health to the hardships he endured in the army. He was taken with brain fever at Vicksburg, and came home on a two months' furlough, the only time he was absent from his regiment. After being mustered out he accepted a clerkship in the Frank B. Fobes hardware store in Albert Lea, which position he held for nine years, after which he purchased an interest in the business, the firm name being Fobes Bros. & Co. He was interested in this concern two years. While he worked in Albert Lea, he made his home on his farm, spending his Sundays there. While living on the farm he was a member of the county board, being chairman of that body most of the time. He also served in various town and school offices, and was secretary of the Bancroft Creamery for many years, being one of the organizers of this association. He was a member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., and was recognized as one of Albert Lea's leading citizens. Mr. Sandburg was a staunch Republican, and always voted the straight ticket of that party from the time he was twenty-one until his death. The subject of this sketch was married at Decorah, Iowa, April 27, 1856, to Eliza Larson, daughter of Torger and Anna Larson, who came from Norway to America in 1850, and settled in Winnishiek county, Iowa. Mrs. Sandburg was born in Norway, December 8, 1836. To Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg nine children were born, five of whom are now living. William T. lives in Pine county, Minnesota. Henrietta is now Mrs. C. F. Budtz, of Minneapolis. Joseph lives in Aberdeen, S. D., and is a traveling salesman. Amelia is an accomplished teacher who has done excellent work in the public schools of Albert Lea for several years, and who, after January 1, 1912, is to be assistant superintendent of Freeborn county schools. Victor lives in Austin, Minn., and is a traveling salesman. The four deceased are: Henry 1st, Mary, Henry 2d, and Norman L. Norman was Freeborn county's only sacrifice to the Spanish-American war. He went south with the Albert Lea company, was brought to St. Paul ill with the typhoid, and died in a hospital in that city. Nicholas T. Sandburg died February 23, 1907.







M. A. TESLOW AND FAMILY



**W. A. Brooks**, one of the successful farmers of Freeborn township, was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, January 8, 1860, son of Harvey and Lucinda (Mugridge) Brooks, who came from Canada to Wisconsin in 1848, first living in Green Lake county and after a few years moving to Columbia county in the same state, where the father died in 1900. The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood on a farm, attending the district school. In 1894 he located on a farm in Freeborn township, this county, in section 33, where he lived a short time, after which he purchased his present farm of 160 acres in section 34, where he has prospered. He married Ada Wright, and the home has been blessed by four children. They are: Herbert R., Edith M., Elsie V., and Laura E. Herbert R. is a merchant in Freeborn village. He married Margaret Hanson. Edith is now Mrs. G. R. Borland, Elsie the wife of Theodore Nelson, and Laura is now Mrs. Howard Hammond. Mr. Brooks has a very fine herd of Jersey cattle and is a representative farmer. He has been supervisor of his township and president of the creamery association, of which he is a stockholder.

**M. A. Teslow** has been supervisor of the town of Hayward for the past fifteen years and has also served as chairman of the town and treasurer of school board for nine years. He was born in Norway December 22, 1856, and came to America with his parents, Andrew and Anna Teslow, when he was seven years of age. He attended the district school in Hayward and there spent his boyhood, his father having purchased a farm in this township. After leaving school he worked with his father until 1883, at which time he bought eighty acres of land and started farming on his own responsibility. As opportunity afforded he added to this farm until he owned 120 acres, upon which he followed general farming until 1908. Of this he has sold eighty acres and bought the old homestead of 160 acres, where he engages in diversified farming. He has improved his property by draining the marshes and repairing the buildings. February 2, 1883, he married Ida E. Ofstehage, who was born near Eau Claire, Wis., July 26, 1864, daughter of Ole and Ingeborg Lunde, both now deceased. They have seven children: Olaf M., Alma, Beatrice, Irene, Walter, Raymond and Volborg Adelaide. Volborg, a twin of Walter, is dead. Mr. Teslow votes independently, and attends the Lutheran church. He owns stock in the Hayward creamery and in the Hayward farmers' elevator, and also has numerous interests in various other enterprises.

**Andrew Teslow** and family came to America from Norway in 1863 and first located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he worked as a painter, an occupation for which he had prepared himself before coming to this country. Three years after reaching



this country he came to Albert Lea, where he worked at his trade for a period of six years. At this time he made his home in Hayward township, where he had purchased some land. Eventually he gave up his work as painter and carried on general farming until his death, June 10, 1907. His widow makes her home with her son, M. A. Teslow. They were parents of eleven children: M. A., of Hayward; Hans, of William county, North Dakota; Andrew, of Minneapolis; Gilbert, of Hayward; Anton, of Minneapolis; Peter, of Minneapolis; Mary, now Mrs. Carl Jenson; Minnie, a teacher, and Richard, of Montana. Lizzie and an unnamed child are dead.

**Henry O. Thompson** is a native of Norway and first saw the light of day on January 12, 1854, the son of Ole and Ingeborg Thompson, who came to the United States in 1858, landing in Quebec on July 4. They first settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they remained two years, after which they went to Iowa, where they settled in Winneshiek county, took a homestead and followed general farming for eleven years. The elder Thompsons also lived, in later years, in both Minnesota and South Dakota. The father died October 8, 1889, and the mother March 17, 1906. The subject of this sketch when nineteen years of age went to Wyoming, where, for one year, he worked as a helper in a kitchen, cooking for a government camp. He then returned to Rock county, Minnesota, where he bought 160 acres of land, with standing crops, for \$440. He later sold this land and went to Worth county, Iowa, where he bought a ninety-five-acre farm, which he worked for four years. He then sold his ninety-five acres and bought 242 acres in section 34, Nunda, where he now resides. It was here that a frame stable was built 14 by 24 feet, and in this for three months his family lived. During these three months he excavated and walled up a roomy basement, placing a granery on this basement when he could. Here for eleven years the family had a home. To the visitor in the fine large home of Mr. Thompson today it does not seem that the family suffered any ill-effects from this experience. Many beautiful evergreen and orchard trees, in all more than a thousand, have been planted around and near the home by Mr. Thompson, and it is now one of the very attractive and beautiful homes of the locality. In addition to the home farm Mr. Thompson also owns 190 acres in Worth county, Iowa, 236 acres in Hartland township, Worth county, Iowa, and forty acres in section 24, Nunda. He and his family work nearly all this land. He keeps 100 head of Shorthorn grade of cattle, some hogs, and about fifty sheep. About fifteen horses are kept for farming and driving purposes. In 1878 the subject of this biography married Ingeborg Haugrud, and to them have been born twelve children, four of whom, William O'Neal, Inga Sedelia,





H. O. THOMPSON, RESIDENCE AND FAMILY







Eden Tolen and Josephine Melinda, died in infancy. Sevrena Ovedia, Alfred Orlando, Inga Tonetta, Eddie Tolen, Selmer O'Neal, Ida Dietta, Evelina Rutea and Henry Ingwald are all at home. Mr. Thompson is a Luthern Church member. For many years he voted the Republican ticket, but now strongly favors the principles of the Prohibition party. He has been clerk of School District 105 for ten years, and president and treasurer of the Star creamery several years. He is a stockholder in the Union creamery, of Emmons, the Emmons Telephone Company, and the Acorn Brick & Tile Company, of Glenville.

**Peter Berglund**, the possessor of 160 acres in Albert Lea township, was born in Sweden May 12, 1857, son of John and Anna Berglund, who came from Sweden to America in 1869 and bought land in Albert Lea township. The father died in 1904, while the mother is still living on the same farm with her youngest son. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools and has always pursued farming as a vocation. He married Anna Christina Wicklander, and they have nine children: Anna, Frances, Milton, Leslie, Stanley, Emma, Evelyn, John and Phillis. Mr. Berglund carries on general farming and takes great pleasure and interest in his cattle and hogs. The pleasant farm is three miles from the city limits of Albert Lea, and here, with its ample house and good buildings, fertile acres and well-cared-for live stock, Mr. Berglund, surrounded by the members of his family, rejoices in the life of the independent farmer. Mr. Berglund is a member of the Baptist Church, and is affiliated with the grange. For several years he was treasurer of the Albert Lea Dairy Association. Anna, one of his daughters, is the wife of James Sorenson, manager of the State Bank of Clarks Grove, where they reside.

**John Bessesen** is a well known jeweler of Albert Lea and has lived here many years. Always an optimist and an enthusiastic worker for the interests of his community, he is a firm believer in the advantages of the middle west; and the disposition to assist in its development brought him here from across the Atlantic. John Bessesen was born at Bergen, Norway, on May 25, 1847. He received his early education in the public schools of his native city and there learned the jewelry business. He was an only son, his father being an expert shipbuilder in the city of Bergen. In 1867 the subject of this biography, accompanied by his parents, came to America and located first at Madison, Wis., where the father took up the work of cabinet maker, contractor and builder. John, the son, went to Black Earth, Wis., where he started in business for himself as a jeweler. In 1869 he married Delia Vehum, of Madison, Wis., who grew to womanhood in this country, but who traces her lineage back to ancestral, royal title in



northern Europe. Her parents left the estate in the family line and with their children came to this greater land of promise and social equality. One year after his marriage Mr. Bessesen and his wife, Delia, immigrated to Minnesota, and with them came Mr. Bessesen's parents. They purchased a quarter section of land five miles south of Albert Lea, which they improved and made productive. Three years later Mr. Bessesen moved to Albert Lea and established himself in his chosen occupation of jeweler. His father took up the work of contractor and builder, at which he continued until his death, which occurred in the eighties. Mr. Bessesen and his estimable wife have made Albert Lea their home since, with the exception of two years which they spent in Northwood, Iowa. Four sons have been born to them. These sons are all professional men and well established in the Northwest. Dr. A. N. Bessesen, the eldest, is a physician and surgeon, located in Minneapolis, where for the past eighteen years he has given faithful service as Surgeon in the Hospitals and as Professor in the College. N. Daniel Bessesen is an attorney and has won an enviable reputation practicing law in Minneapolis. Hon. H. J. Bessesen, of Harvy, N. D., is also an attorney-at-law, and while he has succeeded unusually well in practice he has also been most successful in political circles in the state and is at present State Senator. While in Bismarck during the last two sessions he brought to successful issue many important political plans. The fourth son, Dr. W. A. Bessesen, is located in his home town, Albert Lea, where success has followed him in all his work and where he devotes himself to the especial needs of the community. John Bessesen still continues in his business in Albert Lea and maintains an active interest in public affairs.

**Thomas Henry Armstrong**, who died at his home in Albert Lea December 29, 1891, was born in Milan, Ohio, February 6, 1829. He became a student in Western Reserve College, Hudson, and graduated from that institution in 1854; he taught one year in an academy at Berlin Heights, Ohio, and attended the law school in Cincinnati in 1854-55, and in the latter year was admitted to the bar. He went to La Crosse, Wis., in 1855 and opened a law office, but the next autumn found him located at High Forest, where he resided until 1874, when he removed to Albert Lea. It was while at High Forest that Mr. Armstrong was twice elected to the lower house of the state legislature, once being speaker, as well as lieutenant governor. After removing to this city he was twice chosen to represent Freeborn county in the state senate, and he did it well. Up to 1861 Mr. Armstrong had always been a Democrat, but when the mighty effort was made to wreck the Union he became, a Republican and gave his means and influence to the cause of right. From that time to his death he was an unswerving Repub-



lican, being one of the party's most progressive and enthusiastic members. Mr. Armstrong was married April 1, 1868, to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Butman.

**Julius Clark.** The following word picture is given of an early figure in Freeborn county history: "As we drive along a crooked wagon track, not yet worn to dust, we pass a low log building. An old man of sixty years stands in the door looking over a beautiful prairie and the distant hills beyond, but not one sign does he see that man had ever visited his beautiful retreat. His long hair, once auburn, is sprinkled with gray, while his large protruding eyes glow through large steel-bowed glasses. He wears no beard, but is sadly in need of a shave, while his clothes are coarse and his cowhide boots are out at the toes. A huge quid of tobacco bulges his thin cheek so as to almost hide his Roman nose. In speech he drawls his words and one sees at once his education has been sadly neglected. Under this rough exterior, however, there is a kindly heart and he is liked by all who knew him." Such was Julius Clark, Albert Lea's first merchant and first justice of the peace. His store was on East Clark street, where the Metropolitan hotel now stands. He had been a merchant in Ohio when, in 1855, he saw adversity and quietly boxed up his goods, shipping them down the Ohio and up the Mississippi river to Brownsville, Minn., and in March, 1856, walked into the prospective village of Albert Lea. George S. Ruble soon made him believe he had reached the right place, making him a present of two lots, which today are worth thousands of dollars. When his goods arrived in May, 1856, no building had been prepared and they were left on the prairie until a "bee" was gotten up and his log store erected, all giving a helping hand. While here he pre-empted the now beautiful farm of Dr. A. C. Wedge, west of the city. He was here but about three years, returning to his Ohio home, where he died some years ago.

**William Kellar**, son of Isaac and Sarah Kellar, was born at Louisville, Ky., December 24, 1820, and died at Albert Lea, Minn., February 25, 1892. His ancestors were of German descent and emigrated to Kentucky with Bryant, a co-explorer with Daniel Boone, settling at Bryantsville, near the present city of Danville. In 1832 Mr. Kellar removed with his father's family to Edgar county, Illinois, where he remained until he reached manhood. In 1842 he went to the lead mines in Grant county, Wisconsin. In 1843 he was engaged in teaming, hauling goods for the government from McGregor, Iowa, to the Winnebago Indian reservation at Fort Atkinson. In 1844 he returned to his old home in Illinois, where, on February 15, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth C. Kies. To this union three sons were born: Curtis B., William G. and Martin V. He at once removed to Grant county, Wisconsin,



where he followed farming until the fall of 1855, when he sold his farm and, on May 5, 1856, arrived at the prospective village of Albert Lea, locating on the old Blue Earth road, one mile southwest of the court house. Here he remained to the end of life, his wife passing to that undiscovered country September 16, 1884. In 1864 he enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. For forty years he was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and it was at his home that the first religious meeting ever held in the vicinity of Albert Lea took place, viz., May 3, 1857, Rev. Sylvester N. Phelps preaching. He was known as an honest, kind-hearted, Christian gentleman.

**Curtis B. Kellar** is the oldest of three sons of William and Elizabeth C. Kellar, and was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, May 19, 1845. At eleven years of age he removed with his father's family to Albert Lea, Minn., where they located one mile southwest of the town September 27, 1856. He helped his father on the farm during the summer and attended Albert Lea schools during the winter. In February, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, Fifth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and after his discharge from the army he attended the academy at Bloomington, Wis., and later at Oberlin College, Ohio. On his return from school in the spring of 1866 he was employed by Frank Hall as a bookkeeper in his store on the southeast corner of Broadway and Clark street. It was in the office of this store that Mr. Hall started the first bank in Albert Lea, in fact the first bank in the county, in the spring of 1867, appointing Mr. Kellar his cashier. In 1868 Mr. Hall built a brick building on the northeast corner of Broadway and William street and removed his banking business to this building, where Mr. Kellar has been constantly employed ever since, being without doubt the oldest banker in the state in point of service. He has faithfully worked his way up, on his merits only, from a bookkeeper to president of the First National Bank of Albert Lea, Albert Lea, Minn., a bank with a capital and surplus of \$150,000 and assets of over \$1,000,000. He was married at Boscobel, Wis., May 28, 1867, to Mary E. Nixon. Two children were born, Minnie Florence, now the wife of H. N. Brown, of Minneapolis, and Horatio Ellsworth, now cashier of the Bank of Hamilton, Hamilton, N. D. He has been a lifelong Republican, but took no active interest in politics. For the last fifteen years he has been city treasurer of the city of Albert Lea. He is a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea and was at its organization elected to the office of ruling elder, a position he has since held. He is a trustee and was for a number of years also a treasurer of the Albert Lea College. He has been



greatly interested in this college and has given liberally of his time and money to its upbuilding and maintenance.

**Martin V. Kellar**, son of William and Elizabeth Kellar, was born in the township of Clifton, Grant county, Wisconsin, November 14, 1849. At the age of six years he removed with his father's family to Albert Lea, arriving on September 27, 1856, and took up his residence one mile southwest of the court house, which has been his home ever since. He attended the Albert Lea schools up to 1866, when he attended Hamline University a short time, then located at Red Wing. He returned and followed farming until 1872, when he attended Carleton College, Northfield, for two years, he being the first student from Freeborn county to attend that today popular institution. He finished his education at the St. Paul Business College in 1874. In 1880 he opened a railroad land office at Lake Benton, Lincoln county, but soon closed it to take charge of grading and platting a large tract of land in western Minnesota for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, after which he opened a land office for this company at Pipestone, which he operated for two seasons. In 1882 he entered the banking house of H. D. Brown & Co., in Albert Lea, as bookkeeper, where he remained for five years. On December 9, 1884, he was united in marriage at Martinville, Wis., to Emma C. Kies. His health failing in 1886, he sought the old farm home again, and has been in the dairy business ever since. He has recently sold his farm and erected a pleasant home just outside the city limits. On the incorporation of the city of Albert Lea he became clerk of the township and afterwards town treasurer for an unbroken period of seventeen years. He has been for many years a member of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M. He is one among the very few who have seen the village of Albert Lea grow from one log cabin to a city containing 6,192 souls. Mr. Kellar is noted as an historical investigator, and the present history will stand perpetually as his monument, as its preparation would have been impossible without his help, his memory and his judgment.

**Russell Bigelow Abbott**, educator and clergyman, son of Joseph and Mary, was born August 8, 1823, on a farm near Brookville, Ind. There he made his preparation for college in the country school, in teaching, and in private study. He entered Indiana University, and was graduated with credit, receiving the degree of A. B., in 1847, and A. M. 1850. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by Gale College in 1886. After leaving college he taught two years in Muncie, Ind., and five years in Newcastle, and spent two years as principal of Whitewater Presbyterial Academy, two years as principal of Anoka public school, one year as principal of St. Paul Female Seminary, and eighteen years as president of Albert Lea College. While teaching at Newcastle



he studied theology under the direction of the Presbytery of Muncie, and was licensed as a probationer for the gospel ministry in the year 1853. After further study and preaching in vacant churches, he was ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery of Whitewater in 1857. He was pastor of the Presbyterian church of Brookville seven years, of the church of Knighttown two years; at Albert Lea, Minn., first pastor, fifteen years; at Jackson, five years. He supplied some other churches shorter periods; spent much time visiting villages and country school-houses, preaching and organizing Sabbath-schools; organized eight churches; dedicated ten church buildings, part of them in other presbyteries; was one year Moderator of the Synod of Minnesota; and was six times a member of the General Assembly. He was the author of the new office of administration in Presbytery for the supply and conservation of feeble and vacant churches, called the Pastor-at-large, sometimes called "The Winona Plan." He was the founder and first president, and for many years the chief supporter, of Albert Lea College. He was three times married; first to Eliza A. Baugh, of Bloomington, 1847; second, Sophronia J. Leech, of Oxford, 1861; third, Marietta Hunter, of Ripon, 1881. He has preached up to this date 5,298 times. He has written—nearly ready for publication—"Books of the Bible," lectures, two vols.; "Bible History," one vol.; "History of Winona Presbytery"; "Historical Sketch of Albert Lea College," and numerous sermons and addresses.

**Dr. Franklin Blackmer** was one of the pioneers in this county. He was born in New York, where he attended school and grew to manhood. In 1831 he married Minerva Wilkins, who was also a native of New York, and five years later, in 1836, they moved to Amherst, O. In 1856 Dr. Blackmer came to Minnesota and located on a claim near Pickerel Lake, and the following year he moved his family here and they settled on a farm west of the town, which has since been incorporated into the city of Albert Lea. After coming to Minnesota, Dr. Blackmer practiced his profession only during the Civil War, when he took charge of Dr. Wedge's practice, the latter having enlisted as surgeon in the army. Dr. Blackmer passed away February 2, 1877, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a man held in high esteem by all and noted for his kindness and hospitality, and his sterling qualities won the respect of the citizens of the county.

**Edwin Clark Stacy** was born at Hamilton, N. Y., September 5, 1813, and moved with his parents to Columbus, Pa., thence in 1836 to Ann Arbor, Mich. He studied law with the law firms of Miles & Wilson at that place, then entered the law office of Judge A. C. Stacy at Tecumseh, Mich., being admitted to the bar in 1840. In September of the same year he returned to Pennsylvania, and



was married to Elizabeth Densmore Heath, who was his wise counselor and faithful helpmate through all the succeeding years. They came west June 6, 1856, and located on a government claim at the head of Geneva lake in this county, in the then wilds of Minnesota. In 1857 he was appointed by Gov. Gorman, of the territory of Minnesota, one of three commissioners to organize Freeborn county. In the same year he was elected to the constitutional convention which framed the organic law of the state, and served in that body with marked ability. In December 1859 he moved to Albert Lea and was elected to three terms as county auditor, as judge of probate and one term as superintendent of schools. He was elected city justice in June, 1875, and held the office many years, being re-elected every two years. He was a life-long Democrat in politics, always standing high in its counsels and management. He was long a member of the order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Stacy had four children, Dorr, Day, Lynn and Lizzie, the last two being deceased. Judge Stacy died April 29, 1897.

**Albert Miller Lea** was born in Richland, Tenn., July 23, 1808. His parents were Maj. Luke Lea and Lavinia Jarnagin. At thirteen years of age he entered college at Knoxville, Tenn. In 1827 he received an appointment at West Point, and graduated the fifth in his class in 1831. He was appointed a lieutenant in the Thirteenth Artillery but shortly afterwards exchanged positions with the since noted John B. Magruder, of the Seventh Infantry, and was stationed at Fort Gibson, then on the extreme frontier. From thence he was ordered to Washington, there receiving instructions and orders to report to Knoxville, Tenn., to survey and plan improvements for the Tennessee river and its tributaries. From this time he passed through the usual variations in army life, being detailed for different duties in several parts of the country, and in 1835, was in Fort Des Moines, Ia., and there received orders to undertake a summer campaign which has since become famous as the trip through Freeborn county.

In the latter part of the winter of 1835-36, Lea resigned his commission in the army, to take effect June 1, in the meantime having obtained a leave of absence, which he improved by writing up for publication in book form a sketch of this expedition, including a map of the country, which was published in Philadelphia by H. S. Tanner. In May, 1836, the Colonel was married to Ellen Shoemaker, of Philadelphia. For a time he was located at the mouth of Pine river, below Rock Island, to survey some lands, which being completed he received the appointment of chief engineer of the state of Tennessee, with headquarters at Nashville, and for some time he was engaged in prosecuting internal improvements in that state. Soon afterward he was



appointed by Martin Van Buren to establish the southern boundary of Iowa, which he did. Afterwards he was in the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company as locating engineer. In March, 1841, he was appointed chief clerk in the War Department, and in September of that year, upon the resignation of President Harrison's cabinet, he became secretary of war, a position which he held for six weeks. In 1844, he accepted the appointment of professor of mathematics in the East Tennessee University at Knoxville, which position he held until 1851. In the meantime, having lost his wife, he married Catherine S. D. Heath. He then started a new enterprise, the manufacture of glass in Knoxville, which proved a financial failure. In railroad interests he afterwards went to Texas, and on the breaking out of the war between the two sections of the country he offered his services to the Confederacy, and served in various capacities. His son Edward, who adhered to the Union cause, was killed at Galveston, Texas, while acting as chief officer of the steamer "Harriet Lane." After the close of the war, Colonel Lea resided for a time in Galveston, but afterwards removed to Corsicana, Texas. In June, 1879, on a special invitation of the municipality, he visited Albert Lea, and was given a royal welcome, delivering an interesting address to the Old Settlers' Association. He died January 15, 1891, at Corsicana, Texas.

**William Morin**, one of the successful financiers of southern Minnesota, was born in 1827, at Maryborough, Ireland. He grew up in his native country, where he acquired a fair common school education, which was supplemented by the special training of a civil engineer. He was about twenty years of age when he came to America, and his first five years in this country were spent in New York. He secured the position of chief engineer on the Niagara Gorge railroad, and was engaged upon this and other lines of railroad until 1856, the year in which he came west. After some time spent in deciding upon a favorable location, Mr. Morin selected Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he invested in large tracts of land and became one of the founders of the town of Albert Lea. He owned about one-half of the present site, and at the time of his death, which occurred March 17, 1887, was the largest land owner in Freeborn county. He was an energetic and public-spirited man, and played a prominent part in developing the material interests of city and county. He was a member of the first city council of Albert Lea and served continuously up to the time of his decease. He was the first county auditor and the first register of deeds of Freeborn county. He was also a member of the board of county commissioners, being one of those appointed by the governor to locate the school for indigent children. During the Civil War Mr. Morin



served as deputy United States assessor and deputy United States marshal. In 1860 Mr. Morin was married to Margaret E. Wedge, sister of Dr. A. C. Wedge. Three children were born to them. One of them died in infancy and the two surviving are William A. and Margaret Bell (now the wife of M. D. Purdy, of Minneapolis, formerly federal judge of United States District Court). Mr. Morin was a Knight Templar, and as a staunch Republican exerted an active influence in politics. He was never a "place hunter," but his characteristics of quick perception, common sense, sound judgment and integrity made him in demand for public office, and he accepted the proffered honors out of loyalty to the state and particularly to the city of Albert Lea. In his later days Mr. Morin bought a fine winter home in Los Angeles, Cal., and it was here that he passed away. At the news of his death a great wave of regret swept through his home community, and the following is quoted from the local press at that time: "Mr. Morin was a commissioner of the State Indigent School, at Owatonna, a member of the county board and the city council, and for over twenty-five years he was a leading, if not the most prominent factor in the prosperity and progress of Albert Lea and Freeborn county. He was a man of remarkable executive ability, and in the business world few, with his opportunities, have been more capable and successful. He was an upright man, and in his habits and example a model man and citizen. Honest, honorable, charitable, kind and true, the ending of his career in the prime of his manhood was a public sorrow."

**Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Morin** was born in the village of Washington, Ohio, March 29, 1840. Her father was Rev. Albert Wedge, a Baptist clergyman, who a short time previous to her birth had removed from the state of New York to Ohio, then designated as the far West, where he was engaged in mission work. Her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Clark, of Lewis county, New York, who, young and enthusiastic, sought to share the burden of her husband's task in the hard life of a missionary. Within six months after the birth of her daughter, the mother, then but twenty-eight years old, fell a victim to the noble cause she so earnestly espoused. In 1851 Rev. Albert Wedge died. Shortly after this event Margaret was sent to relatives in New York, there to be cared for and educated, and there she remained until 1857. In that year her brother, Dr. A. C. Wedge, then about to graduate from the Cleveland College and intending to come west, sent for his sister to join him. Speaking of her at this period, the doctor tenderly says: "I had not seen her since she was a child; she had grown and was now a very beautiful girl of sixteen years, bright, earnest and intellectual." In that year the young people came west as far as Wisconsin,



where the doctor intended to locate, but an uncle having some property here induced the young man to come to Albert Lea and give it his attention. He did so, leaving his sister at Ripon, Wis., near which place she taught school until the following year, when she, too, came to Albert Lea, and joined her brother, with whom she lived until the following year, when she was united in marriage to William Morin. Three children were born of this union, one of whom died in infancy. The two surviving are W. A. Morin and Mrs. M. D. Purdy, of Minneapolis, Minn., the wife of ex-Judge M. D. Purdy, of the United States Federal Court. Mrs. Morin was one of the early pioneers of Freeborn county and to the rude and untamed life in the midst of which her life was cast the charm of her youth, the grace of her accomplishments and her splendid intellect lent a polish and an influence which aided materially in giving a high tone to the life and morals of the young town. Her life was marked by Christian zeal and charity and during the early days when want and sickness could not find such ready succor as today, her sympathy and her purse were always at the command of the needy, and many found in her an angel of mercy. To her active efforts were due the early organization of the Baptist church in this city, of which she was a life-long and constant member. During the long years of her residence in this city Mrs. Morin endeared herself to a large circle of friends. She died February 11, 1906.

**William A. Morin** was born at Albert Lea, on July 29, 1864. He obtained his fundamental education in the public schools and at fifteen entered Pillsbury Academy at Owatonna, Minn., from which he graduated with the class of 1884. Upon leaving school he became associated with his father in his extensive real estate operations at Albert Lea and soon became prominent in business and public affairs. For several years he served as county surveyor, and at a later period as county commissioner; and he succeeded his father on the board of city aldermen. At the age of twenty-two he was obliged to assume the entire responsibility of managing his father's estate and while the load seemed quite heavy for so young a man, nevertheless by hard work and close attention to business the outcome of his work has been very gratifying both to himself and his friends. The construction of the Illinois Central railway into Albert Lea was brought about by the unaided efforts of Mr. Morin and the building of this line compelled the B. C. R. & N. railway (now Rock Island) to extend their tracks from Albert Lea to the Twin Cities. The Hotel Albert, the finest hotel building in any Minnesota town outside of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, was financed and constructed through his efforts, and during the entire business career of



Mr. Morin he has been one of the foremost supporters of Albert Lea and Freeborn county, and while his land transactions have covered a number of states he still stands loyal to the county of his birth, and he says, "The sun never shown on better farming land than we have in Freeborn county." In politics Mr. Morin has usually voted the Republican ticket and has been honored by numerous local offices, and he takes his share as a responsible citizen without any personal political ambition. He is a member of all the Masonic bodies, which constitute practically all his fraternal affiliations. On August 16, 1893, at Waverly, Iowa, Mr. Morin was married to Katherine Trusdell, a native of that state, but nearly all of her life had been spent at Albert Lea, where she attended the public school and the Albert Lea College. Mr. and Mrs. Morin are the parents of two sons, William T., born August 1, 1894, now a student of Shattuck School, at Faribault, Minn., and Richard W., born December 11, 1902.

**C. M. Hobart** was born at Ripon, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. When about ten years old he removed with his parents to Jackson county, Wisconsin, where he passed his boyhood days upon a farm. Entering the office of the "Badger State Banner," at Black River Falls, Wis., Mr. Hobart worked for a time in the mechanical end of the business, but preferring the news part, he took that up, and during the next few years was connected with two or three Wisconsin papers in an editorial capacity. In October, 1891, Mr. Hobart came to Minnesota and accepted a position on the editorial staff of the "Mankato Free Press," where he remained for eleven years, going from there to Hutchinson, Minn., where he purchased an interest in the "Independent-Times," and was in editorial charge for four years. Disposing of his interest in 1906, he spent several months at Minot, N. D., in newspaper work, but the country not agreeing with his health, he returned to Minnesota early in the summer of 1907, and accepted a position with the "Times-Enterprise," and continued with the paper until its consolidation with the "Tribune," when he accepted a position on the editorial staff of the two papers. On the retirement of J. P. Hurley on the first of October, 1911, Mr. Hobart became editor of the "Evening Tribune" and the "Weekly Times-Enterprise." Mr. Hobart was married at Black River Falls, Wis., in September, 1884, to Carrie Smith, and they have two children, Murray and Helen.

**Lewis H. Emmons**, business man, stock breeder and village official of Emmons, was born in Nunda township, this county, December 30, 1856, son of Henry G. and Christina (Larson) Emmons, being one of the first white children born in Freeborn county. He was reared on the home farm, attended the public



schools, and had the additional advantage of a complete commercial course in the LaCrosse (Wis.) College of Business. In 1881 he and his brother, George H., erected a store in Norman, Iowa, but about 1886 the business was moved to the present site of the village of Emmons. In 1898 the partnership was dissolved, George H. continuing the business. In 1891 Lewis H. Emmons took charge of an elevator and lumber yard, both of which proved very successful. In 1905, the lumber business having grown to large proportions, a stock company was formed by the citizens of Emmons and vicinity, for the purpose of taking it over and conducting it. This venture, thanks to the foundation of prosperity so carefully laid by Mr. Emmons, had proven a profitable venture for all concerned. In 1907, owing to increased demands on his time, Mr. Emmons retired from the active management of the elevator. At the present time he turns most of his attention to the live stock industry, being greatly interested in pure blooded cattle and swine. Indeed, he may be called the pioneer in this locality in the matter of pure blooded breeds, and his neighbors declare that his bringing to this locality of registered Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China swine was the real beginning of the breeding of blooded stock in this part of the country. Of late years, in addition to raising stock, Mr. Emmons has been an extensive dealer, buying in this neighborhood and shipping to the packing-house points, sometimes, however, doing considerable fattening before sending to market. He is also considerable of an agriculturist, owning village property in Emmons and farm lands in Nunda and Mansfield townships, this county, as well as in Worth county, Iowa. In politics a Republican, he has been honored with many public positions, serving the village of Emmons as president two successive terms, recorder several terms, member of the council, and assessor, as well as in minor capacities. Fraternally Mr. Emmons is a member of the Sons of Norway. He is a firm believer in the future of southern Minnesota and has been a tireless worker for those things which he believes will best promote the welfare of the whole locality and build the foundation for still better things in the future. The high esteem in which he is held in the county is due not so much to the fact that he has been successful as to the value of his character as a member of the community. The subject of this sketch was married in 1889 to Inger Larson, whose parents came to Iowa in the fifties and followed farming. This union has been blessed with four children, of whom the living are Hamlet, Earnie, Victor and Herbert. The family faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**William Elmir Todd**, of Albert Lea, a well known public man of southern Minnesota, was born in Geneva, Kane county,



Illinois, August 14, 1853, and died at Mankato, Minn., November 11, 1899. His sudden and untimely death was a great loss to the community and the state. Mr. Todd was in the prime of his manhood and his usefulness and he was withal, a man of strong parts and rare accomplishments, a brilliant lawyer, a faithful public official and a kindly gentleman. As a boy he was naturally a student, and of scholarly tastes. After attending the high school at Columbus, Wis., he, in 1869, entered the Jefferson Liberal Institute, a Universalist school at Jefferson, Wis., where he remained two years, paying his way through school by outside work. He taught country schools in 1871 and 1872, and in the spring of the latter year entered the Wisconsin State University. The next fall, however, he left the university, returned to the Jefferson Institute, and taught Latin and mathematics in that institution; the following year he taught in the town of York, Wis. In the fall of 1874 he again entered the University of Wisconsin, taking a modern course, and graduating with honors in 1877. While in college he was noted for his proficiency in Latin and history, and a portion of the time he was assistant instructor in chemistry. A few months after his graduation Mr. Todd assumed the principalship of the public school at Lodi, Wis., and in connection with his other work he began to study law. February 22, 1880, he married Alice I. Coapman, who was at the time teacher in the Lodi schools. The following summer he entered the law office of A. J. Cook, of Columbus, Wis., and continuing his legal studies for a year, was then admitted to the bar at Portage, Wis. In the fall of 1881 Mr. Todd removed to Albert Lea and formed a law partnership with the late Judge E. C. Stacy. His total income the first year was only about four hundred dollars, but his ability and application to business were recognized and appreciated and his business increased in due time. He continued in partnership with Judge Stacy for about two years, when he became associated with the late Judge John Whytock. This association was dissolved in a comparatively short time, and thereafter Mr. Todd engaged in the practice on his own account, until 1897, when he formed a partnership with Henry C. Carlson, under the firm name of Todd & Carlson. Mr. Todd early became prominently identified with the interests of Albert Lea. He had not been in the city very long when he became a member of the school board, and was its clerk for fifteen years, retiring in 1897, after positively declining a re-election. Though that position was not at all remunerative or distinguished, he regarded it as a place of high responsibility and one of great honor and trust. He would not have exchanged it for any other position within the bestowal of his fellow citizens and he did not retire from it until, largely by his efforts and



influence, the schools were running under a perfect system, and his increasing personal duties made it imperative upon him to resign the routine work to others. In 1886, after serving two terms as city attorney of Albert Lea, he was elected county attorney of Freeborn county; he was re-elected in 1888, holding the office for two terms. It is needless to say that his service in both positions was most faithful and of the highest proficiency. He was not an office seeker, or he might have become distinguished in public positions. For he was an enthusiastic Republican and took an active interest in the affairs of his party, which during his residence in Minnesota, was dominant in Freeborn county and the state. He was frequently a delegate to his party's conventions, often took part in political campaigns, was a noted public speaker, and at the time of his death was an executive member of the Republican State Committee. But Mr. Todd's chief ambition was to excel in the chosen profession of the law. As he grew in it its governing principles fascinated him, and he was a student until the hour of his death. He literally "died in the harness," being stricken down by apoplexy while in the Federal courtroom at Mankato, engaged in the trial of a case. Mr. Todd had secured a large clientage and a lucrative practice; was the attorney for numerous business firms and associations, a number of railroad corporations, and had an extensive general practice as well. He was a prominent member of the state bar association, and for three successive years this organization sent him as a delegate to annual conventions of the National Bar Association. A brother lawyer thus describes Mr. Todd's professional character: "His knowledge of the law was reinforced by an almost intuitive understanding of human nature, and these qualifications were the real foundation of his success as a practitioner in the District and Supreme courts of Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota. His analytic mind rarely failed to discover the flaws in the testimony of a witness or the weakness in the argument of an opposing counsel, and his earnest manner and persuasive voice impressed the logic of his case upon the hearer with convincing force. The office of county attorney made him acquaintances, and his practice grew rapidly until he not only represented almost every important business interest in Freeborn county, but was often called to far distant points to conduct important cases. He always tried his cases promptly and fairly. Despite his liberal donations to charity and public enterprises, his expenditures in the purchase of a large and valuable law and private library, etc., his accumulations were considerable, and he left a comfortable estate." The personal qualities of William Elmir Todd were most striking. He was a man of attractive presence, bright,







LYMAN T. WALKER AND FAMILY.



spirited and debonair. His large warm heart matched his active and intelligent brain. From his boyhood his character was pure and noble. As has been stated, Mr. Todd was married February 22, 1880, to Alice I. Coapman. Mrs. Todd and her daughter Liela, Mrs. Laurence J. Paulson, are living in Albert Lea. Other surviving members of Mr. Todd's family are two sisters, Mrs. Henry Mead, of Shell Lake, Wis., and Mrs. Eugene Chrisler, of Wapato, Wash.; also four brothers, Charles, Lewellyn and Willard Todd, of Merrimac, Wis., and Miles Todd, of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Rev. Miles G. Todd, father of William Elmir Todd, was a Universalist minister, born at Homer, N. Y., and descended from Scotch-Irish ancestors, who were early settlers in New York state. Miles G. Todd and Helen M. Parker, also a native of New York state, were married in Illinois in September, 1852. In 1855 they moved to Wisconsin, first locating at Merrimac and two years later at Lodi. On his removal to Lodi, Mr. Todd began to teach, but later was called to the pastorate of the Universalist church. While in the ministry at Mazomanie, he entered the army as chaplain, and served until the close of the war. After his discharge he returned to Mazomanie, and for the next twenty years was in charge of the Universalist church, successively at Columbus, Oshkosh, Columbus again, and Lodi. He died suddenly of hemorrhage of the brain, at Mason City, Iowa, in 1888. Mrs. Helen M. Todd, his wife, died June 28, 1906.

**W. E. Todd, M. D.**, one of the successful practitioners of Freeborn county, was born in Wisconsin, April 26, 1861, son of Rev. J. D. and Susan S. (Webster) Todd. W. E. was reared in his native state, and in Winnebago City, Minn., attended the public schools, and in 1890 graduated from the Chicago Medical College. After receiving the usual hospital practice and thus perfecting his medical and surgical knowledge, he took up practice in the logging and mining regions about Neaunee, in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Then he practiced in Madison, Minn., for five years, and in 1896 came to Albert Lea, where he has since been engaged in general practice. He is a Republican in politics, affiliates with the Knights of Pythias and attends the Presbyterian church. The subject of this sketch was married November 23, 1890, and has five children, Gertrude, James R., Helen M., William O. and Florence.

**L. T. Walker** was born in Vermont on January 25, 1821; was reared on his father's farm in that state, and also taught school there. As he grew to manhood he decided to try his fortunes in the West. Accordingly he left his old home and went to Wisconsin, where he was overseer in the lime quarry owned by Daniel Williams. In 1858 he came to Minnesota and was united



in marriage with Amy Hoag, at High Forest, Minn., on September 28, 1858, daughter of Russell and Mary (Williams) Hoag, natives of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Walker came to Freeborn county in 1858 and bought a farm in Carlston township, where they lived for several years. From there they moved to Alden, in which they made their home. On May 27, 1875, he was appointed postmaster and also was engaged in the mercantile business. He held the office of postmaster for eighteen years, until the time of his death, which occurred April 7, 1893, at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. L. T. Walker was born on January 16, 1834, at Cowlesville, N. Y. She moved with her parents near High Forest, Minn., in 1857, and there her father passed away. Her mother was born in the state of Rhode Island and was a descendant of Roger Williams. She died at the remarkable age of 102 years. Mrs. L. T. Walker was engaged in the millinery business for twelve years. After the death of her husband she was appointed as postmaster and is serving in this capacity at present. Her appointment dates from October 21, 1893. There were born to Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Walker four children: Addie is the wife of Hudson Pettitt, who resides on a farm near Alden; Frank married Eva Putnam and is at present assistant postmaster at Alden; Daniel married Belle Emerson, resides at Mankato, Minn., and is the present agent for the C., M. & Puget Sound; Amy is the wife of Henry B. Cottrell, rural mail carrier, and resides at Alden.

**Gunlek O. Wasmoen** was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, son of Ole and Guro Wasmoen. He was educated in the country schools and has always been at home. Since his father's death, November 21, 1906, he has tried to take his place as head of the family and that he has conducted the farm successfully is evident. He keeps a good herd of dairy cattle and sells the dairy product to the Scarville Creamery, Scarville, Iowa.

**Ole G. Wasmoen** was born in Telemarken, Norway, March 12, 1864, where he stayed until sixteen years of age, when he immigrated to this country, to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he worked for the farmers for \$12 a month. He stayed in Wisconsin seven years and for two years he was in Minnesota, near Fergus Falls. Then he went back to Norway for a short visit. In 1890 he was married to Guro E. Haugen, also of Telemarken, Norway. After that they resided two years in Dane county, Wisconsin, where their son, Gunlek was born. In 1889 Ole Wasmoen came to Mansfield township, in Freeborn county, for the first time, and bought 120 acres of land of Sam Emerson for the consideration of \$13.33 an acre. In 1892 he moved from Wisconsin to Freeborn county and six years later, in 1898, he bought forty acres of land from Hans T. Olson for the sum of \$1,000.







FRED BAILEY AND FAMILY



Ole Wasmoen belonged to the Democratic party. In the spring of 1906 he was taken sick and on the twenty-first day of November, the same year, he died. He was survived by his wife and seven children, namely, Gunlek, Gunheld, Eddie, Halvor, Guro, George and Thomas.

**C. H. Trogstad** is one of the prosperous farmers of Bancroft township. He was born in Norway, in due time came to America, and like most of his countrymen worked about for a time before purchasing land for himself. He now carries on general farming and dairying. His wife was the daughter of a pioneer family and bore him a number of children, the family being well thought of in the community.

**Fred Bailey**, a prominent and respected farmer residing in Alden township, was born in Waldeck, Germany, son of William and Juanita Bailey. The subject of this biography grew to manhood in his native land and there attended school and acquired his education. In 1868 he decided to seek his fortune in America, and crossed the ocean and landed in this country, after which he proceeded west to Minnesota and settled in Pickerel Lake. For some time after this Mr. Bailey made his home with his uncle, Christian Bailey, remaining with him for six years, and then working for his brother-in-law for three years. Mr. Bailey bought a farm in 1877, comprising eighty acres, which was located in section 12, Alden township, living in a sod house, which was on the place when he bought it, until the year 1878. On April 22, 1878, Mr. Bailey bought another eighty acres from William E. Dean, moving the frame house which stood on the last named eighty onto the first eighty which he had purchased. During the year 1892 he disposed of the original farm and then purchased land in section 11, later becoming the owner of a half section. He at once set to work improving his property, repairing the old buildings and erecting new ones, and giving much time and attention to the careful cultivation of the soil. As prosperity and opportunity have afforded, Mr. Bailey has added to his land holdings, and he is now the owner of 400 acres. He carries on general diversified farming, together with some stock raising and dairying. Mr. Bailey is a supporter of the principles endorsed by the Republican party, and he has been elected to serve in many of the responsible public offices in the township, among which are: supervisor, in which capacity he served for three years; and clerk of school district 40 for eight years. He is a stockholder in the Alden creamery. Mr. Bailey attends the Presbyterian church, and has for many years been an esteemed member of that organization and one of its elders. Fraternally he affiliates with the I. O. O. F., M. W. A. and the M. B. A. On March 19, 1875, Elizabeth Larson, of Swedish birth and parentage, became the wife



of Mr. Bailey, and their marriage has been blessed by nine children. Charles, now a resident of Pickerel Lake township, was born February 13, 1877; Edward, living at home, was born April 9, 1878; Fred, also at home, was born July 15, 1879; Albert, of Alden township, was born May 10, 1881; Ida, now Mrs. Charles H. Bailey, of Gary, S. D., was born January 9, 1884. William, born January 22, 1887; Mary, born September 14, 1889; Elizabeth, born March 1, 1891, and Oscar, born March 15, 1893, are all at home. The wife and mother entered into rest September 13, 1897. Of his fine family Mr. Bailey is justly proud, and as his children have grown to young man and womanhood he has educated them for useful lives and made them self-reliant and fitted for their chosen occupations.

**William Bailey** and Juanita Bailey, his wife, who were among the early settlers in Freeborn county, were natives of Waldeck, Germany, where they were born, educated and married. In 1871 they came to America and west to Minnesota, where they located in Pickerel Lake township with their son William, who had acquired land, which they assisted in breaking, cultivating and erecting buildings and established their home. Mr. Bailey carried on agricultural industries with his son William until his death. The wife and mother is also dead. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey were the parents of four children: William, of Pickerel Lake; Mary, now Mrs. Charles Krueger; Elizabeth, deceased, and Fred, a farmer in Alden.

**Theodore Haraldson**, who for many years has been a resident of Nunda township, was born in Freeman, on July 15, 1865, son of Knute Haraldson (Loftsgaard) and Ingeborg (Haatweit) Haraldson. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the country school near home. After completing his studies in the district school he went to a parochial institution of learning, where he completed his education. For several years after leaving school Mr. Haraldson was employed at well digging, after which he accepted a position as rural mail carrier, serving in this capacity for seven years. He is at present employed by the Freeborn Creamery Company. Business interests in Canada require his presence there at intervals and he has made several trips there. Mr. Haraldson is a member of the Lutheran Church and he was a delegate from Freeborn county to the convention held in St. Paul in the summer of 1911. He affiliates with the Republican party, but has not been a seeker of public office. On May 2, 1897, he married Rachel Hovden, a daughter of William Hovden, and to them have been born three daughters: Thelma Rebecca, Agnes Victoria and Wilma Esther. Mrs. Rachel Hovden Haraldson was born in Lyons county, Minnesota, on February 16, 1873, daughter of William



and Anna (Hatveit) Hovden, natives of Norway. She was educated in the common schools of this state and later took a two-year course in Wheaton College, at Wheaton, Ill. She is a member of the W. C. T. U. and also of the I. O. G. T. Her father passed away September 3, 1907, and left her some valuable property located near Alberta, Canada. Mrs. Haraldson is descended from a noted family, and has written many interesting articles concerning the doings of her gifted ancestors.

**Lauritz Peterson**, proprietor of the Evergreen Farm, in section 16, is one of the ambitious and successful farmers of Manchester, in which township he was born, September 24, 1865. He was reared in the home of his parents, Christian and Mari (Trondson) Peterson, and received a good common school education, which he has increased by careful reading and close observation. Since leaving school he has carried on farming, now owning 160 acres of good land. His success is indicated by the excellent condition of his property and the fine residence in which he lives. He was married January 30, 1907, to Gina Nelson, and two children have been born to them: Myrtle Margaret and Gladys Luella. Mr. Peterson does not interest himself in any particular political party but votes independently. His faith is that of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, of which he is a member. Mr. Peterson is an ideal citizen in every respect, and is a great believer in the ultimate prosperity which results from persevering endeavor.

**Christian Peterson** was born in Ringebo, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, January 14, 1822, and married Mari Trondson, also a native of the same locality, born November 5, 1823. They came to America in 1855, and first located in Wisconsin, where they remained but a short time. They then moved to Iowa, where they conducted general farming and later, in 1857, came to Manchester township, acquired land and founded their home. To them several children were born. Theodore and Peter are prosperous farmers of Grand Forks, N. D., and Hans, Lauritz and Matthias live in Manchester. Christian Peterson died November 5, 1887, and his wife November 3, 1906.

**Andrew A. Egge**, a retired farmer, who is now residing at 513 West Main street, Albert Lea, was born in Norway, March 31, 1839, son of Andrew Anderson. In 1852 the subject of this biography came to America with his father and settled in Wisconsin, where the father later passed away, after which Andrew went to Iowa and located at Washington Prairie, where he remained until 1859. In 1860 he came to Minnesota, settled in Bath township, purchased land and prepared to engage in general farming. The following year, in October, he enlisted in Company G, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. He served in this company until 1863, when he again enlisted as a veteran in



the same company and served through all the battles with his regiment, as follows: The capture of Fort Henry; the battle of Fort Donelson; the battles of Shiloh, Jackson, Vicksburg, Tupelo, Mobile, Nashville and several skirmishes. He was captured at the battle of Shiloh, on April 6, 1862, and held as prisoner at the Macon (Ga.) and Libby prisons until the following November. He was mustered out with his regiment in January, 1866, after which he returned to Minnesota and settled on his farm. He then began farming in earnest, broke the land, erected necessary buildings and made many improvements, carrying on agricultural industries until 1899. At this time Mr. Egge rented his farm, which comprised 280 acres, and moved into Albert Lea. He affiliates with the Republican party, and has served in many offices in the township in which he made his home for so many years. He was town treasurer for several terms, and also was a member of the school board. In all public offices to which he was elected he represented the best interests of the community and held the respect and esteem of all. In 1867 Mr. Egge was united in matrimony with Anna S. Sigurson, who was born at Drammon, Norway, November 24, 1849, and came to America at about four years of age. To this marriage eight children have been born: Emma A. is the wife of Theodore Thorson, a section foreman at Otho, Iowa. Matilda married Rudolph M. Olson, a farmer near Hartland, Minn. Henry is a successful shoe merchant in Albert Lea. Ida is Mrs. Adolph H. Sibley and resides with her husband on their farm north of Hartland, Minn. Nora married Ole B. Flaske, a hardware merchant at Walnut Grove, Minn. Alick is a shoe merchant with Henry in Albert Lea. Arthur, a twin of Alick, was drowned in Lake Albert Lea. Fred is in the hardware business at Walnut Grove, Minn. The wife and mother entered into rest July 31, 1911, at the age of sixty-one years, eight months and six days. The family faith is that of the United Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Egge has long been an esteemed member.

**Thomas O. Gavle** is the son of Ole and Ruvie Gavle, who, in 1868, came from Norway to Winnebago county, Iowa, where Thomas O. was born November 1, 1873. The family lived in Winnebago county till 1874, when they moved to section 25, township of Mansfield, Freeborn county, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, attending the common schools and working with his father on the home farm. When he was twenty-one years of age he took 160 acres of land in section 28 in the township of Mansfield, and has since followed general farming. In 1901 he built a fine new house and barn. He keeps a good herd of milch cows and derives a steady and substantial income from this source. On December 14, 1894, he married Enga Ingabratson, of Iowa, and to them four children have been born: Ruth, Mabel,







CHARLES C. AYARS AND FAMILY



Clarence and Ora. Mr. Gavle is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is independent. He has been a member of the school board in district No. 86 for nine years and has also served the people in his community by acceptably filling the office of justice of the peace for nine years.

**Casper W. Ayars**, a well-known resident of Albert Lea, dates his residence in Freeborn county from 1856, the time of his coming being one year before the county was organized and two years before the state was admitted. He was born in Shiloh, N. J., November 30, 1848, son of John W. and Mary B. (Bowen) Ayars, who brought him to this county a few months before he reached his eighth birthday. He grew to manhood in Freeborn township, attended the district schools, and as time passed took up farming for himself, having in the meantime taken a course in the Cashel & Rogers Business College at La Crosse, Wis. In 1876 he severed partnership with his father and purchased 480 acres in Freeborn township, later adding 160 acres more, making a full section of land. This land he developed and improved, erected many buildings, and carried on general farming successfully until 1902, when he retired. After a year and a half in Minneapolis he came to Albert Lea and purchased one of the most beautiful residences in Albert Lea, located at 418 Grove avenue, and extending through to the lake. While in the country Mr. Ayars took a prominent part in the affairs of his neighborhood. He was town supervisor some time, was school treasurer thirty years, and occupied other positions of trust and honor. He helped organize the Trenton Creamery Association at Trenton postoffice, Freeborn town, served as its clerk when first organized and was finally made president. The subject of this sketch was married June 17, 1875, to Sarah E. Tellett, a native of Wisconsin. They have two children—Lucius and Harold C., both of whom live at home. The family faith is that of the Baptist Church.

**Charles C. Ayars**, residing in the township of Freeborn, was born in Cumberland county, New Jersey, March 12, 1844, son of John W. and Mary (Bowen) Ayars, first seeing the light of day in the same house in which his father was born. The subject of this sketch was twelve years of age when he came with his parents to Freeborn township. Here he attended the district school as he had previously at Milton, Wis. In 1866 he purchased the farm on which he still lives, in section 6. He married Susan M., daughter of Louis Pierce, who came from Jefferson county, New York, and five children have been born to them. They are: Flora E., Arthur W., Louis, Florence E. and Laura M. Mr. Ayars has shared in the growth and progress of his township and county from the very beginning of the settlement, and has held many



of the township offices. For twenty-five years he was justice of the peace. The family faith is that of the Baptist Church.

**John W. Ayars** was born in New Jersey. He removed to Milton, Wisconsin, in 1855, and in 1856 came with his family to Freeborn county, Minn., and pre-empted land in section 3, Freeborn township. It was on June 13 that they arrived and during the summer they lived in the wagon and a tent. In October a log house was built and some land was broken up for planting the next year. That summer and fall it was very dry and the prairie fires were alarming. Fortunately they had taken the precaution to surround their home with a wide "breaking," and thus escaped the desolation which others suffered. All the grain in those days was threshed out by horses. It was placed on the frozen ground in a circle and the horses tramped over it. The nearest market was Hastings, in Dakota county, on the Mississippi river, where it was taken in wagons drawn by oxen. The trip there and back consumed nine days. At this early period there was not more than a dozen families in the township of Freeborn and the home of Mr. Ayars was the postoffice. He remained postmaster in the northern end of the township for thirty years. In after years he built a frame dwelling, where he continued to live until his death in 1890. His wife died in 1905. Six children blessed their home: They were: Charles C.; Casper W.; Phoebe M., the wife of Henry F. Weed; Laura J., now Mrs. George A. Barnes; Anna M., living on the old homestead, and Alma A., the wife of Edward Larson. After the death of Mr. Ayars, his wife was appointed postmistress, and served six years.

**E. A. McColley**, a popular supervisor of Freeborn township, has served in this capacity for three consecutive years, and that he is particularly adapted for public office is also shown by his service as clerk of school district 11 for nine years. He was born in Hartland, August 21, 1864, son of George and Electa (Morehouse) McColley, and passed the early years of his life on his father's farm. His education was acquired in the schools of Hartland, while his knowledge of farming was imparted to him by his father, who believed in training his son for a life of practical work. When he was twenty-six years of age he purchased a farm of 160 acres in section 10, Freeborn township, and here he makes his home and carries on general farming. He married Effie Shequen, who was born August 2, 1869, in Vermont, a daughter of James Shequen, of that state. To them have been born twelve children. Ten are living: Elgen L., Ruby, Marlet R., Cora M., Grant, Vestia, Hazel, Irvin, Kenneth and Marian. Two died in infancy. Mrs. McColley's grandparents are still living at Belton, Minn., at the extreme age of 92 and 103 years, respectively.



Mr. McColley is a public-spirited man, thoroughly respected throughout the township and county in which he resides.

**George McColley**, one of the pioneers of Hartland, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, March 24, 1831. When a young man he went to Ohio with his parents and later to Portage City, Wis., where he made his home for many years and was married to Electa Morehouse, March 6, 1853. Three years after his marriage he and his wife left Portage City for Hartland. This trip was accomplished by means of a team of oxen, and after reaching Hartland they camped in their wagon for two months, after which he erected a rough slab cabin, in which they made their home for many years. When the call for men to fight for the Union came Mr. McColley enlisted in Company E, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served his country through the war, after which he received an honorable discharge. He died October 13, 1910, and his wife July 19, 1881.

**Thomas W. Purdie**, deceased, was one of the leading men in the township of Freeborn. He was born in Scotland, September 3, 1829, and came to the United States when five years old. He located in Freeborn township in June, 1857, took a claim in section 25, and engaged in farming. As he was a man of culture and education, he at various times was asked to conduct religious services, and he delivered many good sermons. He married Tillie L. Crandall, a daughter of Rev. P. S. Crandall, of New York, and this marriage was blessed with four children: Tillie J., now Mrs. Wilbur J. Althouse; Margaret E., the wife of Rev. John Buttelman; Marion S., married to A. M. Borland, and David R. Mr. Purdie owned a farm of 160 acres, which he cultivated and improved, thereby increasing its value. Mrs. Purdie gives the information that he was one of the first county commissioners and the first town clerk that Freeborn township ever elected. He was elected to the state legislature in 1859 and also in 1877, and was prominent in the political affairs in the county. He entered into rest June 21, 1908, at the age of four score years, and Mrs. Purdie still makes her home on the farm. Mrs. Purdie received her early schooling in New London, Conn., and attended the Shilough Academy of New Jersey. Later she completed her education at the Albion Academy in Wisconsin and married Thomas Purdie December 18, 1859.

**Rev. P. S. Crandall** was a native of the Empire State, born in Alleghany county. He married Louisa J. Smith, of Cohocton, N. Y., and they were the parents of the following: Tillie L., Etta L., Charles A., Susan J. and Fred O. For several years Mr. Crandall preached in various localities in New York. He also was a pastor of churches in Rhode Island and Connecticut and in New Jersey. In the fall of 1857 he came west and located in Dodge



county, Minnesota, where he remained for a year, after which he moved his family to Freeborn township. As he was a missionary, he was obliged to preach in many places, and made the journey to these points on horseback.

**Mark A. Freeman**, a retired farmer of Freeman township, was born in England, February 6, 1834, son of John and Betsy Freeman, early pioneers. In 1854 the subject of this sketch came to America with his brother, William, and they settled in Illinois, where they made their home for two years, after which they came to Minnesota and pre-empted land in Freeman township, this county. This 160 acres of land was in timber and prairie, the timber being owned by Mark and the prairie land being the possession of his brother William. Some time later each exchanged one-half of their property to the other, so that they each had both timber and prairie land and a total of 160 acres each. Mr. Freeman returned to Illinois after a few years, where for some years he remained and then he again came to Minnesota, settling on his farm in Freeman township. He then set about clearing and improving the land and erected a comfortable house and outbuildings, and later added to his farm another eighty acres. He planted the fine grove which surrounds his home and his apple orchards are among the finest in the county. The row of black walnut trees which adorn his farm was planted by Mr. Freeman and as the years have come and gone many improvements have been made by him, and he now lives a retired life, surrounded by many comforts which his life of unceasing toil and industry have made possible. On December 25, 1864, Mr. Freeman was united in the bonds of matrimony with Mary J. Seavy, and of the children born to this marriage three are now living: Chloe, a nurse at the City and County Hospital in Albert Lea; W. G., of Freeman township, with whom the subject of this sketch makes his home, and Inez, who resides in Illinois. Mr. Freeman in politics favors the Republican party, and he has held the office of road overseer for the past fifteen years.

**John F. Hansen**, senior partner of Tapager & Hansen, contractors, was born in Denmark on October 11, 1876, the son of Rasmus R. and Margaret. The father was a blacksmith in Denmark and died there in 1882. The subject of this sketch attended the schools in his native land and spent two years in school in the United States. When he left school he started to learn the cigar trade and tailoring, but never completed them. Instead he learned the carpenter trade. Coming to America in 1886, he located at Albert Lea, where he worked at carpentry until 1897. At this time Mr. Hansen established a contracting business and one year later took into partnership C. M. Tapager. They have carried on a flourishing business ever since, and have handled





MARK A. FREEMAN





a number of big contracts, among their more recent work being the American Gas Machine Company and the Danish Brotherhood buildings at Albert Lea. In the year 1902, Mary C. Nelson became the wife of Mr. Hansen. She is the daughter of Christ Nelson, of Albert Lea. To them have been born three children: Iva, Raymond and Violet. In his political life Mr. Hansen is a Republican, and in church life a Baptist. He is a loyal member of the M. W. A. and has served as alderman from the Third Ward for four years.

**Henry H. Emmons** has taken an active part in the agricultural development of Freeborn county, devoting his life to stock dealing and farm pursuits, but finding the time also to serve his community, town and county in several honorable capacities. He is one of those men who have achieved success in life, and his prosperity is due to hard work and a keen observation of local conditions. Although a stock fancier, he has not cared to become an extensive breeder, but keeps in close touch with the markets, buying stock when the prices are most reasonable, fattening it, and shipping it to the most desirable centers at such times as the most favorable quotations prevail. As a farmer he is of the most modern type, and has spent many thousands of dollars in tilling and improving his 620 acres in Nunda township. While realizing the many advantages to be secured by diversified farming, he nevertheless is a great believer in corn as a staple crop for this locality, and plants many acres of this product each year. Hard as Mr. Emmons works, however, it must not be supposed that he devotes all of his time to his own personal interests. He is a leader in every progressive movement, and has done excellent service to his fellow citizens as town clerk of Nunda and as county commissioner of Freeborn county, as well as in minor offices. He is also an official, active member and liberal supporter of the Norwegian Lutheran church. The subject of this sketch was born in Nunda township, this county, February 21, 1867, son of Henry G. and Christina (Larson) Emmons. He was reared to manhood in his native township, attended the neighborhood schools, and received his commercial training in a business college at Decorah, Iowa. In 1890 he married Isabell Helland, daughter of Jacob Helland, an early pioneer of Mansfield township. This union has been blessed with five children, as follows: Harry, Carrena, Lawrence, Raymond and Esker. Harry, the oldest, attended the public schools, graduated from the Southern Minnesota Normal College at Austin, Minn., and is now a student at the St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

**Orville F. Peck**, one of the esteemed residents of Alden township, was born in Jefferson county, New York, January 10, 1834, son of Joseph and Sally (Francis) Peck. In 1855 he came to Win-



nebago, Wis., where he remained for three years, after which he came to Minnesota and spent a few months in Berlin. He then returned to Winnebago and entered high school. When he had completed his education, Mr. Peck returned to Minnesota and located in Manchester township, where he engaged in farming until the call came for men to defend the Union. He then enlisted in Company F, 4th Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. After serving his country for about a year and a half, he was discharged on account of illness and returned to his home in Manchester. In 1866 he moved to Alden township, secured a farm, and for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits. He now owns a fine, well kept farm in section 9 and is one of the progressive farmers in the township. Mr. Peck married Elizabeth F. Colby, a daughter of the famous pioneer family of that name. They have one child, Frances. Mr. Peck has served in various offices in this and Faribault county, having been town chairman, town treasurer and justice of the peace. He is a member of the G. A. R. and has been quartermaster in the Alden post for the past 25 years. Acting with good judgment and impartiality in all matters, it can be truly said that Mr. Peck is highly respected by his fellow men.

**H. L. Schmidt**, one of the leading citizens of Alden township, is now town chairman and has held this office for two successive terms. He has also served as justice of the peace for two years and has for a long time been an active member of the school board. As secretary of the Walters Creamery he has given general satisfaction and has been elected to this office for the past ten years. He was born in Germany September 22, 1854, son of Christian and Louisa (Stubble) Schmidt, and received his education in the schools of his native land. He left his old home and sailed for America in 1879, and landed in this country June 6. He then came directly west, first locating in Owatonna, where he remained for three months, after which he moved to Alden township and located on the Dodd farm. For three years he made his home on this farm and then moved to another farm in section 16. In 1885 he purchased the farm on which he resides at the present time. Mr. Schmidt was married to Maleda Mathwig in 1879, a native of Germany, and they are the parents of the following: Ida, the wife of Lars Olson; Emma Elfrida, now Mrs. Harold Dunbar; Herman, Laura and Melvin. The family faith is that of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and Mr. Schmidt has the honor of having been a trustee in this church for the past twenty-five years.

**Heman Blackmer**, for nearly twenty-four years judge of probate for Freeborn county, was born in Amhurst, Loraine county, Ohio, January 3, 1850, son of Franklin and Minerva (Wilkins)



Blackmer. He came to Minnesota with his parents in 1857, and with them located near what is still called Blackmer's Bridge, in Albert Lea. After attending the district schools, he went to Oberlin (Ohio) College, and stayed there six years as a student-teacher. Then he took a law course in Madison, Wis., which he completed in 1873. After a year spent in Osborne, Kan., he came to Albert Lea in 1874 and established a law practice in which he is still engaged. He is now a member of the city charter commission. Judge Blackmer is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and of the I. O. O. F. The subject of this sketch was married in 1873 to Ellen Webster, daughter of James and Mary Webster. To this union three daughters were born. Nevada is the wife of Austin Johnson, a draftsman for the United States Steel Company, located at Two Harbors, Minn. Adelaide lives at home and assists her father in the office. Mae is the wife of Joseph O. Ostby, an electrician. Mrs. Ellen Webster Blackmer died in May, 1904. In 1905 Judge Blackmer married Ella Huyck, daughter of Anthony and Emily (Colby) Huyck, early settlers of Houston county, this state. The Blackmer residence is pleasantly located on the Lake Shore boulevard. At one time Mr. Blackmer was court commissioner, and he has also served as city justice.

**Dr. W. A. Bessesen**, a popular physician, was born on a farm in Freeborn county, five miles south of Albert Lea, son of John and Delia Bessesen. When W. A. was two years of age the family removed to Albert Lea, and that city has been the parental home ever since, John Bessesen being a leading jeweler. W. A. Bessesen received his early education in the Albert Lea graded schools, and graduated from the high school at an early age. Entering the University of Minnesota directly upon the completion of the high school course, he finished a thorough educational course and graduated in 1902, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. After leaving the university he did postgraduate work at Northwestern University, and here received his Master's degree. With this foundation for his professional course, he entered the Northwestern University Medical College, of Chicago, from which he graduated in 1905. For special research work in connection with his medical studies, he received the degree of Master of Science. A series of studies in eastern colleges and hospitals was pursued as a finishing course. After graduation Dr. Bessesen was hospital physician at St. John's Hospital, at Fargo, N. D., for a period of eight months, after which he accepted the position of hospital surgeon with the Mayo Brothers, in St. Mary's Hospital, at Rochester, Minn. In November, 1906, he removed to Albert Lea and took up the general practice of medicine and surgery. Dr. Bessesen received his license to practice from the state board of Illinois in 1905, from North Dakota state board in



January, 1906, and from the Minnesota state board in June of the same year. In July, 1905, he presented a valuable thesis on "The Development of the Chest," at the national convention of the American Medical Association, held at Portland, Ore. For the past two years Dr. Bessesen has faithfully served as chairman of the city board of health. He is a member of the Freeborn County Medical, the Minnesota State Medical, and the American Medical Associations. He holds the position of local surgeon for the M. & St. L. railroad. In politics he is a progressive Republican. He is a member of the Commercial Club of Albert Lea, and is affiliated with the Trinity Evangelical church, where he has been superintendent of the Sunday school for four years.

**Howard H. Dunn**, the distinguished speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives, has taken his share in the history of the state as well as in the life of the county. He is a clear and forceful reasoner, a strong power at the bar, and a skilled parliamentarian, as well as a man of high character and just principles. Mr. Dunn was born in this state October 29, 1867, being a native of Jackson county. In that county he received his common school education, and there he spent his early manhood on a farm. Later he entered the law offices of T. J. Knox, in Jackson, Minn., in 1887, being admitted to practice before the bar in 1890. As a young lawyer he opened an office in Jackson, but two years later went to Fairmont, in this state, where he practiced six years. Then he came to Albert Lea and established a law practice. In 1905 he formed a partnership with Judge John A. Lovely. After the death of Judge Lovely he formed a partnership with H. C. Carlson, and with him still continues in practice. Mr. Dunn has never sought political life, but his public career has been an active and successful one. He served as city attorney of Fairmont for two years and in 1896 was induced by his friends to become a candidate for the senate from the district including Martin and Watonwan counties. To this office he was elected and served with credit in the senate of 1897. After coming to Albert Lea he was made mayor, and his term gave such general satisfaction that he was re-elected at the following election without opposition. In 1910 he became a candidate for the position of representative from Freeborn county in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and being elected by a large majority, duly took his seat in the session of 1911, being at once chosen to the chair of that body. Mr. Dunn has taken an active interest in business life and is now vice-president of the Freeborn County State Bank, of Albert Lea. Fraternally he is both prominent and popular, being a member of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.; Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, R. A. M., and







MR. AND MRS. S. L. DAVIDSON



Apollo Commandery, No. 12, K. T.; Osman Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of St. Paul, and Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E. The portrait of Mr. Dunn which appears in this history was made by a photographer who took Speaker Dunn unawares while he was sitting in the speaker's room at the capitol at St. Paul, examining a bill which had just been received for introduction from a member of the house. James W. Dunn and Elizabeth M. Dunn, his wife, parents of Howard H. Dunn, were born in Maine and Virginia, respectively. James W. Dunn went to Virginia in the early days and was there married. At the close of the Civil War they came to Minnesota and took up their residence in Jackson county. There James W. farmed and taught school until his death in 1890. Elizabeth M. Dunn, nee Seeley, died four years later. They had five children: Helen A., Marshall B., Arthur W., Sherman J. and Howard H. It is worthy of note that though James W. Dunn lived in Virginia, he was a strong Abolitionist, and was one of the first members of the Republican party when that body was in its infancy.

**Sever L. Davidson**, a native of Norway, was born October 17, 1858, son of Lars and Guri Davidson, who brought their son to the United States, settling in Iowa. In 1866 they moved on their homestead of 160 acres in Mansfield township, this county, which they had taken in 1865. The father died in 1897 and the mother in 1898. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Iowa and Minnesota and grew to manhood doing the work of the average farm boy of this locality in those years. As his parents grew older, he took charge of the home place and at last bought it from them. He now owns 280 acres in section 35, town of Mansfield, and also 60 acres in Nunda. He here does dairy and general farming and raises a number of horses. In 1889 he married Emma Thompson, who died in 1899, and to them were born five children. Lars died at eighteen years of age; Martha, Gertie, Andrew and David live at home. On April 17 Mr. Davidson married Mary, a sister of his first wife, and to them have been born four children, Emma, Bernard, Sarah and Lilian. Mr. Davidson is a Lutheran church member. He votes with the Republican party, and has been school clerk in district 86 for eighteen years, assessor three years and supervisor three years. He owns stock in the Union Creamery at Emmons, and is a director in the First National Bank of Emmons, as well as in the Farmers' Lumber Company, of that village.

**Gullick A. Hauge**, a valiant soldier of the Civil War, and for some three decades a wagon-maker in the city of Albert Lea, was born in Norway, December 19, 1840, son of Andrew and Ingeborg (Quale) Hauge, who in 1850 brought their family to America and located in Wisconsin. There the father died, but the mother,



with courage and fortitude, set about to make her way in the world for herself and her family. In 1851 she took her family to Winnishiek county, Iowa, and there Gullick, when grown to sufficient stature and years, learned the blacksmith trade, working for John Emmons at Decorah, in that state and county. October 16, 1861, he enlisted at Decorah in Company G, 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, being later promoted to corporal. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he re-enlisted as a veteran in the same company and regiment, subsequently serving until the close of the war and receiving his discharge at Memphis, Tenn., January 18, 1866. He served in many battles, skirmishes and campaigns, and at the battle of Pittsburg Landing was captured by the Confederates, being held as a prisoner at Macon, Ga., for a period of two months. After his discharge and muster out he returned to Winnishiek county, and followed his trade there two years. Later he moved to Osage in the same state. In 1870 he came to Freeborn county and located on a farm of 160 acres in Bancroft township, which he had purchased in 1866. This land he developed in many ways, and lived thereon until 1875, when he moved to Albert Lea and purchased a blacksmith business. This and the wagon-making business he conducted for thirty years, and then retired. In 1910 he went to Montana, purchased 280 acres of land, made the improvements, and then came back to Albert Lea, renting the Montana farm. He now lives in a pleasant home at 316 West College street, in the city of Albert Lea, and owns a quarter of a block of city property. He is a Republican in politics and belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church. The subject of this sketch was married, December 30, 1868, to Nellie Langen, who was born in Norway, April 4, 1845, and died in Freeborn county in April, 1879, leaving two children, Ida and Trombert, both now residents of Glasgow, Mont., Ida being married to James Wedum and Trombert to Margaret Hughes. December 20, 1880, Mr. Hauge married Olena Rood, who was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, October 3, 1853. This union has been blessed with three children: Lillian, wife of Carl Ackerman; John O. and Adolph G. Lillian and John O. live in Glasgow, Mont., the latter being married to Helen Adams.

**H. G. Gay**, the genial merchant at Geneva, is one of the popular men in that village. He first saw the light of day in Chicago, Ill., April 25, 1874, and was brought to Geneva by his parents, George and Louise (Morgan) Gay, when he was four years old. He received his early education in the public school at Geneva and, after completing his schooling, was employed three years as an engineer. During these three years he spent his evenings and all spare time in studying, hoping to fit himself for the jewelry business. That his efforts were successful is shown by the fact





MR. AND MRS. GULLICK A. HAUGE





that he eventually gave up his position as engineer and bought a store and established a general merchandise business, making a specialty of his jewelry department. He married Rachel Iwing, daughter of Philip and Mary Iwing, in 1901, and one child, Eva A., has been born to them. Mr. Gay has been treasurer of Geneva, at intervals, for six years, in which office he has given great satisfaction. He is a prominent member of the Methodist church and also a liberal contributor to its support.

**George Gay**, retired farmer of Geneva village, was born in Bristol, England, December 5, 1848, son of Henry and Mary Ann (Tucker) Gay, who spent the span of their years in the old country. George received his education in his native city and then worked seven years at the building trades. In 1869 he came to the United States, and after living a year in Rochester, N. Y., came to Milwaukee. Later he returned to his native city and in 1872 married Louise Morgan. With her he returned to the United States and located in Chicago, being employed in that city three years, and in the meantime purchasing a lot and erecting a house on LaSalle street. Later he came to Geneva township and acquired land which he later traded for another tract, where he erected a home and other buildings and followed farming until about 1900, when he retired, purchased two lots in the village of Geneva, erected a house, and there makes his home. He is a Republican and has served in numerous offices. In his family are three children: Henry G. lives in Geneva village, Emily L. married Charles Farr, of Geneva township, and Ada L. lives at home.

**J. P. Hoidal**, a representative farmer of Bancroft township, was born in Norway, December 29, 1845. He received his education in the schools of his native country and came to America with his parents, P. J. and Carrie L. (Quam) Hoidal in 1867. After their arrival in this country the family came directly to Freeborn county and settled in Riceland township. Here the father acquired some land and carried on farming interests. They made their home in a dugout and underwent many privations incident to pioneer life. The father passed away in 1900 and the mother some years prior to this time. They were the parents of nine children: J. P., Thomas, Carrie and Martha are living and John, Raagnald, Gertrude, Annie and Rogine are dead. J. P., the subject of this sketch, owns a fine farm of 160 acres, of which about 100 acres are under cultivation, the remainder is in pasture, meadow and timber. He is engaged in general and dairy farming and is an industrious and law abiding citizen. He and Emma D. Mikkelson were united in wedlock May 30, 1871, and to this marriage three children were born: Bennett is in Albert Lea, engaged in the farm implement business, Joseph C. is a real estate man in Minneapolis, Theodore,



now deceased, was a manufacturer in Minneapolis, whose death occurred June 21, 1910. Mr. Hoidal is a stockholder in the Bancroft Creamery and has been a director, manager and president. He attends divine worship at the church of the Central Freeborn Congregation, and his political views are those advanced by the Republican party. His numerous duties on the farm have left no time for him to seek public office, and he owes to years of honest endeavor and tireless labor his present comfortable home and surroundings. He is a self-made man, who often relates the story of his early struggles, saying that at one time he drove an ox team breaking land, for which work he received five or six dollars per acre. Mrs. Hoidal, whose maiden name was Emma Mikkelson, was born September 19, 1854, daughter of Christopher and Johannah (Sandsness) Mikkelson, the pioneers. They came to America in 1852, located in Dubuque, Iowa, and in October, 1855, came to Freeborn county and located on the land now owned by Mr. Hoidal. They cleared the land and continued to carry on general farming, the father dying December 6, 1885, and the mother February 16, 1892. This union was blessed with four children: Emma D., now Mrs. J. P. Hoidal; Clara H., deceased; Millie L., deceased, and Carl B., who died at eight months.

**A. G. Hall**, who is a native of the Empire state, was born August 16, 1824, son of Benjamin and Dollie (Currier) Hall, also natives of Clinton county, New York, where they ended their days. The family has always been in the front rank of progress and ready to give military service for what they believed to be right. The grandfather of A. G. was a member of the Continental army in the Revolutionary war, and his father assisted in making good the victory which the colonies gained when opportunity offered in the war of 1812. He took part in the battle of Plattsburg. The subject of this biography received his education in New York state, and after leaving school worked on the farm and also learned the millwright and carpenter trades. These trades he followed until he came to Freeborn county in May, 1865. He here bought land in Alden township, in section 1, and engaged in farming. He was one of the first home builders in the township, and in this as well as in assisting his neighbors, his trades learned and followed in the East served to give the pioneers better houses than would otherwise have been possible. In 1870 he established the first general store in the village of Alden, and this business has been successful since, even to the present time. While in New York state and at the age of 24 years he married Abigail Goodsell, who died February 27, 1900, two years after their golden wedding anniversary. To them were born seven children. Carrie E., Franklin, Monroe, William W. and an infant are dead. Mahala married William Welch, of Stewart-



ville, Minn. Benjamin F. married Minnie Emerson, and conducts the store started by his father. Since fifteen years of age Mr. Hall has been a consistent and faithful worker in the Free Baptist church, a member of the Winnebago congregation. He has been trustee in the Parker College of Winnebago over 25 years, and has missed but one meeting, that absence being caused by severe illness. He was a delegate at the Free Baptist convention at Harper's Ferry in 1901. In the days before the organization of the Republican party the subject of this biography voted the Abolitionist ticket, but from the formation of the Republican party he has staunchly stood for its principles. By his party, with the help of personal admirers, he has been elected to every town office at least once, and to the school board and village council. He drew the petition which made possible the organization of Alden township. He is a strong worker for the public schools and the present enviable place which the Alden schools occupy in the county and state was gained largely through the wise guidance and constant support which Mr. Hall has given them. With his many religious, civic, political and business interests he has not allowed the social side of his character to be neglected but has demonstrated his belief in "Friendship, Love and Truth," by being an active member of the I. O. O. F. In a work of this character it is impossible to adequately tell of the long life of activity and good works which such a man as the subject of this sketch truly deserves. But suffice it to say that his many kind deeds are so written on the hearts of his friends that any attempt to put their thoughts in written language will appear poor and weak.

**Lucius Gibbs**, a respected resident of Geneva township, was born in Pennsylvania February 17, 1831, son of Eli and Caroline (Atwood) Gibbs. His parents were native of New England. The father conducted a store at Bradford, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and later engaged in the lumber business. Lucius, the subject of this biography, attended the public schools in that state and later finished his education in an academy in New York state. He then engaged in farming in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, until 1862, when he went to Chicago where he remained but a short time and then decided to come farther west. He went to Nebraska, where he met his brother and together they went to the Dakotas, returning shortly to Albert Lea, the former home of this brother. Here he purchased a farm, but owing to the hard times prevalent through the country he went back to Illinois and was in charge of a large herd of cattle. From Illinois he went to Montana and for about three years worked in the mines, after which he returned to his old home in Pennsylvania. Here he was married to Mary Maynard,



January 15, 1865, and with his bride came to Minnesota, and settled on 160 acres of land which he had purchased in Geneva. Here he made many improvements, erected buildings and carries on general farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have been born five children: Lester, living in Austin; Carrie, now Mrs. Allis, of Geneva; William, residing on the old homestead; Stephen and John H., deceased. Mr. Gibbs cleared and broke the land on his farm and has made all improvements on his place and keeps about 100 acres under cultivation. Forty acres of his farm are in the village limits of Geneva, and the remainder borders on that village. For several years, Mr. Gibbs was assessor of the township and also supervisor and in both offices won the esteem of his townsmen. He is a member of the Republican party, and a man loyal to his convictions, in whose veins flows the blood of the defenders of our country. That his grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War is a fact of which Mr. Gibbs is justly proud. Mrs. Gibbs, whose maiden name was Mary Maynard, was born April 25, 1837, daughter of William E. and Nancy Maynard, natives respectively of Vermont and Pennsylvania. She received an academy education and taught school fifteen terms before her marriage.

**Amander H. Bartlett**, pioneer of Shell Rock, now deceased, was born in New York, September 28, 1829. He attended school in New York, and when but sixteen years of age began teaching. Later he entered the Arcade Academy, where he remained for two years. In 1852, he made an overland trip to California, which consumed a period of 117 days. He spent two years there, after which he returned to New York, but soon left his home state and came west to Iowa. In 1856, Mr. Bartlett came to Minnesota and located at Glenville and purchased land of J. W. Smith. Some time later in company with Messrs. Elsworth and Phillips, he laid out and platted Shell Rock city, now Glenville. Having previously taken up the study of law, Mr. Bartlett followed this profession for a short time in this county, after which he engaged in other occupations. He erected the first steam saw mill in the township, and operated it for two years, and he also dealt in real estate. During the Civil War, he was provost marshal, and after the close of the struggle, he went to Albert Lea and engaged in the farm implement business. In 1857, Mr. Bartlett was delegate to the last Territorial Legislature, and also the first State Legislature, and he held the office of probate judge for several terms. He married Ann D. Peet, of New York, and to them were born four children of whom Samuel C. is at home with the mother; Ida married Moses Lemons, of North Dakota; Jay is a prosperous hardware merchant of Glenville. Eva is the wife of Charles R. Beattie, of Glenville. Mr. Bart-



lett's useful life came to a close on April 24, 1902, and his widow and children survive him.

**Jay Bartlett**, the well known merchant of Glenville, was born July 20, 1861, in the town where he now resides. His parents were Amander and Ann D. (Peet) Bartlett, natives of Cattaraugus county, New York. Mr. Bartlett attended the public schools of his home town and there grew to manhood, working with his father and fitting himself for a useful and industrious life. In 1886 he entered the hardware and lumber business in partnership with his father, with whom he worked for four years, after which he purchased the father's interests and has since conducted the business on his own responsibility. In 1897 he erected the brick block in which his store is located at the present time, and the second story is finished as a modern flat or apartment in which Mr. Bartlett resides. He is a member of the Prohibitionist party, and has held many important offices in the town, among which services are in the postoffice for a period of several years, town clerk of Shell Rock for 20 years, president of the village board, treasurer of the school board and also treasurer of the Glenville cemetery association. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 26, of Albert Lea. Mr. Bartlett married Viola N. Palmer, August 11, 1886. She was born at Glenville, August 11, 1865, daughter of Rev. Daniel H. Palmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett a son, Owen was born, April 23, 1899, and died March 2, 1911.

**Roscoe E. Goward**, a capable farmer of Freeborn, was born in Acton, Massachusetts, June 8, 1852. When he was six years of age he came to this country with his parents, Jason L. and Charlotte (Dean) Goward, and here grew to manhood. He attended school in Freeborn and worked as store clerk and assistant postmaster for a time. Later with his father as partner he opened a general store at Armstrong, and was subsequently made postmaster, being the first postmaster at that point. When the store at Armstrong was sold, the subject of this sketch went to St. Paul and was there employed for a time. In 1893 he came back to Freeborn, purchased a farm, and engaged in diversified farming, an occupation at which he has been very successful. His farm is situated in section 36, Freeborn township. In addition to his agricultural interests he owns stock in the Freeborn creamery.

**Jason L. Goward**, now deceased, was one of the early settlers who came to Freeborn township in 1858. He acquired some land and the following year brought his family here making the trip by the means of an ox team and coming through McGregor, Iowa. For two years he farmed on 160 acres of land in section 36. Then he decided to establish a mercantile business in the



village of Freeborn. That his venture in this new line of work was a success is shown by his continuing the business for twenty years. He then sold it to George Whitman and engaged in the real estate business and at one time was the owner of an entire section of land. Later in life he retired from active service and enjoyed the comforts which his years of hard work made possible. His death occurred July 3, 1893, eleven years after his wife had passed away. He was postmaster several years in Freeborn village, was town clerk a time and served on the schoolboard for many terms. Being a carpenter by trade he assisted in erecting many buildings, and at an early day he planned and built one of the first and long the best schoolhouse in Freeborn county. This house is still standing and is used by W. C. Jackman as an implement sales house.

**Robert P. Farr**, a successful farmer of Geneva township was born in Kentucky March 7, 1832, son of George and Polly Farr. He came to Minnesota as a young man and has made his home here since that time. His farm of 880 acres is one of the well improved and valuable farms in Geneva, and the fine house in which he resides is the result of his years of hard work and privations. The trees which surround his home were planted by himself and father as were the twenty acres of timber which adorn his farm. Mr. Farr carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising Duroc-Jersey hogs, the cement hog house which he has built being considered one of the best in the county. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party, but has never sought public offices. As one of the prosperous and industrious farmers in his locality, Mr. Farr has the respect of the community in general. Mr. Farr is the father of nine children: Alice is Mrs. Morarity of Steele county; Robert W., Irving J., Charles, Amos and Harvey live on the old homestead; Sarah and George S., 2nd, are deceased. Robert W. Farr, a son, was married August 26, 1896, to Florence Kinney, of Owatonna. She died May 7, leaving one son, George Sanford, now of Seattle, Wash. Robert W. is at present serving on the town board of supervisors. He has been clerk of the town and justice of the peace, and has served seven years as secretary of the Monarch Creamery.

**George S. Farr** was born in Kentucky, and as a young man had an interesting career in various places, including several years spent in Lower California where he worked on the railroad which was being constructed across the isthmus. He was a blacksmith and wheelright by trade. In the sixties he came to Minnesota and settled in Geneva township. He had many interesting experiences as a pioneer, making a long overland trip by oxen, settling in a pioneer community, living for a time in a rude log







MR. AND MRS. GUTHORM BOTOLFSON



cabin, and sharing his few supplies with his scattering and needy neighbors.

**O. G. Botolfson**, one of the successful farmers of Bancroft township, was born February 28, 1859, on the farm where he still makes his home, son of Guthorm and Anna (Wange) Botolfson, who were among the earliest pioneers. He went to the district schools when a boy and worked with his father. He now owns a fine and valuable farm of 160 acres and is interested in general farming, stock raising and dairying. He also raises Poland China hogs and a good breed of draft horses. This farm is situated about three miles from the city of Albert Lea. Mr. Botolfson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and votes the Prohibition ticket. He has been elected to serve in various offices in the school district 58 and is regarded as one of Bancroft's substantial citizens.

**Guthorm Botolfson** and Anna Wange his wife, were among the very earliest pioneers of Freeborn county, being natives of Norway, who emigrated from their fatherland and came to America in July, 1854, making their first home in this country at Caporn, Ill. One year later, in July, 1855, they moved west to Minnesota and settled in Bancroft. Their home here was in a dugout and like the other pioneers in this country, they faced many trials and endured great hardships, but their courage never failed them, and from year to year they toiled and saved and at length were able to erect a fine roomy house and make their broad acres yield most abundantly. The father died June 2, 1901, and his widow is yet living at the advanced age of 85 years. They had eleven children of whom four are living. Of those dead Lucy, Anna, Botolf and Peter all died the same week of the black measles. The children dead are: Lucy, born November 6, 1850, died February 11, 1869; Anna, born January 22, 1853, died February 18, 1869; Botolf, born February 14, 1855, died February 16, 1869; Peter, born January 2, 1857, died February 14, 1869; Bertha, born June 28, 1864, died September 4, 1865; Lucy Annette, born August 15, 1873, died May 9, 1874; Pernille, born October 17, 1860, died January 5, 1905. Four are living. O. G. was born February 28, 1859; Johanna, known by her friends as Hannah, was born October 18, 1862; Bertha Maria was born June 19, 1866, and Ingeborg, now Mrs. O. O. Styve, of Albert Lea, was born May 30, 1848.

**Botolf Guthormson Tistel**, a pioneer, was born March 7, 1794, and died February 13, 1866. His wife was born June 21, 1796, and died October 17, 1878. They left Norway, their native country, and came to America in July, 1854, with their son, Guthorm Botolfson, and three daughters, Mrs. J. Hermanson and the Misses Olena and Pernille. In the spring of 1856 they



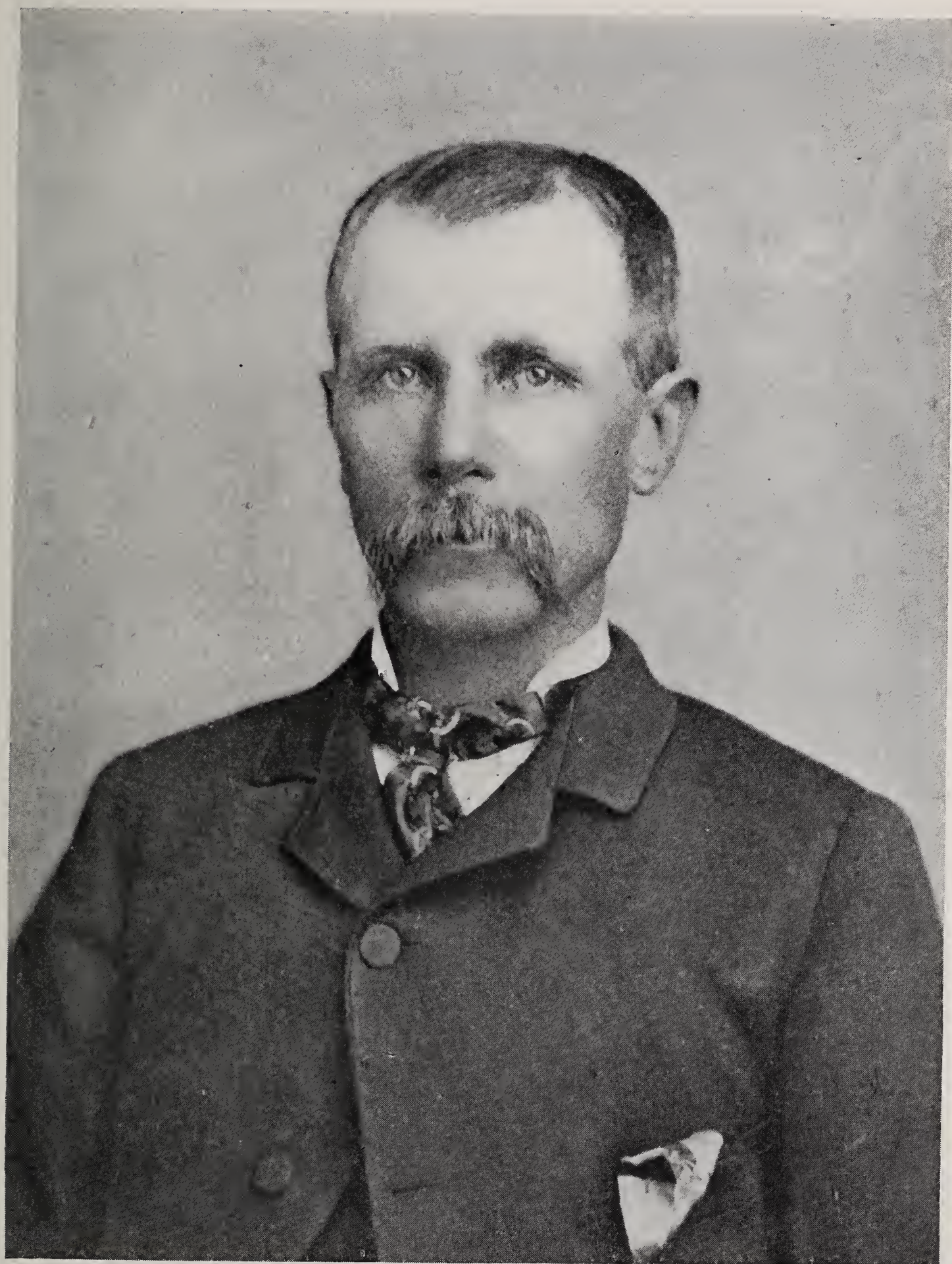
came from Illinois, and settled on the farm in Bancroft township now owned by their son-in-law, N. O. Styve.

**George Hoffman**, now deceased, was for many years a respected resident of Riceland township. He was born in Du Bois county, Indiana, December 13, 1847, son of John and Barbara Hoffman, who came to the United State from Germany when this country was sparsely settled and made a home for themselves in Indiana where the father died when the subject of this sketch was but six months old. George Hoffman received his education in the common schools of Indiana and later went to Louisville where he was employed for a short time. Wishing to see more of the world than the occupation of farming afforded, he joined a show troupe and traveled with them for five years. In 1874 he went to Colorado and later to Wyoming, and here he was foreman of a large horse ranch. He came to Minnesota in 1886, located in Freeborn county and purchased a farm of 200 acres in section 23, Riceland township. On this farm he made many improvements and carried on general and dairy farming until his death, August 14, 1911. Mr. Hoffman was married July 21, 1884, to Rosie Fjeldbroten, born October 26, 1862, in Aadalen, Norway, daughter of Ole Fjeldbroten, who settled in Riceland township. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman four children were born. Willis was born in 1886, Charles in 1888, Ray in 1892 and Agnes in 1897. All are at home. Mr. Hoffman voted with the Republican party, but his many business interests prevented his taking an active part in politics. He was a stockholder in the Sumner Valley Creamery, also one of the stockholders in the local telephone company and threshing company. He also served on the school board for five years thus proving his efficiency in such service. The family attend the Norwegian Lutheran Church. The farm is now being conducted by Mrs. Hoffman and her sons.

**Godfrey Hintz** was born February 4, 1871, on his father's farm in Mansfield, the son of August and Louisa (Jost) Hintz. Godfrey attended school until seventeen years of age, and after his father's death took full charge of the farm which he has since conducted. He now owns the home farm, and in addition to regular farming he raises from fifty to seventy-five hogs annually, keeps a drove of fifty sheep as well as a good dairy herd and horses which he raises for his own use and for sale. On September 1, 1898, he married Emma Tessman and to them have been born five children, Orville, Emil, Gertrude, Margaret and Adelbert. Mr. Hintz is a member of the Mansfield Lutheran Church. In politics he supports the Republican party.

**August Hintz** came to America and settled in Wisconsin in 1863. He purchased 160 acres of land in Mansfield township, this





GEORGE HOFFMAN





county, for \$200.00, and about two years later moved onto the farm. He had a blacksmith shop and did general smithing in connection with farming until his death in 1894, at which time he owned in all 280 acres in sections 2 and 11. He served in town and school offices. His wife, whose maiden name was Louisa Hintz, died in 1888.

**Dr. C. M. Simonson**, son of Ole O. Simonson and Susan A. Gjellum, his wife, was born in the city of Albert Lea, or rather village as it was known at that time, on April 26, 1871. When a year old, the family moved to their farm in Hartland township where they remained till January 1, 1878, when they again moved to Albert Lea, where his father assumed his duties as register of deeds of Freeborn county, to which office he had been elected the previous fall. C. M. received his early education in the Albert Lea public schools and when about sixteen years of age entered the employ of "Decorah Posten," Decorah, Iowa, a newspaper which boasted of having the largest circulation of any Scandinavian paper published at that time. During his four years' stay here he resided at the home of his brother-in-law E. S. Gjellum, who was the Posten's editor for eighteen years. Mr. Simonson desired to study dentistry so returned to Albert Lea and entered the dental office of Brown & Parker, where he remained about a year as an apprentice. In the fall of 1892 he entered the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which institution he graduated in the spring of 1896, in the meanwhile conducting an office in New Prague, Minn., one year. After the completion of his course he located in his home town, Albert Lea, where he has continued the practice of his profession ever since with the exception of the year 1898 when there was a call for volunteers for the Spanish-American War, and he enlisted in Company I, 12th Regiment Minnesota Volunteers—Company I having the distinction of being the first company to fill its quota and report. Though a member of dental and local organizations Mr. Simonson never was a political aspirant, devoting his time exclusively to the practice of his profession and having a good following from both city and country.

**Daniel Hurd**, who died in October 14, 1905, was one of the earliest pioneers of this county. He was born in Rochester, New York, December 7, 1827, and at an early day located near Ripon, Wis. From there he went to Iowa, and afterward came to Albert Lea, March 16, 1856, taking up his claim north of what is now Fountain Lake. There he farmed until 1865. Then he sold out, and moved to section 29, Manchester township, where he farmed until the fall of 1892. In that year he retired and moved to Albert Lea where he spent his declining years.



His wife, whose maiden name was Mary A. Colby, was one of the earliest pioneers of the county, having come to Albert Lea township September 16, 1855. She was born in Pennsylvania July 13, 1838, and married Daniel Hurd, January 13, 1857. There were two sons in the family, George and Frank. In June, 1857, Daniel Hurd built the first frame house in Albert Lea, on East Clark street.

**George Hurd**, real estate dealer, was born in Freeborn county, December 25, 1859, son of Daniel and Mary (Colby) Hurd, his being one of the early births in the county. He received his education in the public schools and in such high school as the city of Albert Lea then afforded. Afterward he taught school five winters, and then continued farming until 1888 when he moved to the city of Albert Lea and engaged in the mercantile business. In 1906 he sold out and engaged in his present business. He does a large business and makes a specialty of Freeborn county and Dakota lands. Mr. Hurd is a Republican, and affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He lives with his mother at 244 West Clark street.

**Louis Hass** was born in Germany. He spent the earlier years of his life in that country, there acquired his education and grew to manhood. Later he brought his wife and family to America and settled in Freeborn township, on the farm which he sold some time ago to his son William H. with whom he now lives. He and his wife have six children. The son, William H., who now owns the home farm is married and has several children. Mr. Hass has served in school office and his family is well regarded in the community.

**W. D. Horning** is one of the well thought of citizens of Albert Lea township. His parents, D. W. and Carrie (Powers) Horning came to Minnesota from New York and located in Albert Lea. Here they acquired land which was cleared by the father whose hard work and farsightedness have resulted in the comfortable home and a farm of 240 acres now owned by him. In a simple log cabin their son was born November 17, 1873, and he grew to manhood attending the school and working with his father on the farm learning each day much which would be of great value to him later in life. Evelyn Nelson became his wife on March 20, 1906, and this marriage has resulted in two children; Clarence, born November 4, 1907, and Edith, born January 22, 1910. Mr. Horning believes in modern education and has shown his interest by serving as member of the school board. He carries on diversified farming and keeps a good herd of dairy cows, and disposes of their product at profitable prices. In his political opinions, he endorses the sentiments of the Democratic





MR. AND MRS. D. W. HORNING





party, and his common sense and good judgment are respected by all with whom he has business dealings. Mr. Horning owns 160 acres of land in Clay county, Minnesota, which he rents for farm purposes. He is a member of the Albert Lea Lodge, No. 61, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Horning was born August 27, 1882, at Albert Lea, daughter of Andrew and Anna Elickson. Her father lives in Forest City, Iowa, and her mother is dead.

**Ole M. Olson**, for eleven years past the efficient chairman of the town of Manchester, was born in a dug-out in the township where he still resides, November 8, 1859, son of Mads and Martha (Hanson) Olson, the pioneers. He attended the district schools, farmed with his father, and grew to manhood on the home place. In 1887 he purchased 240 acres from his father, and started farming for himself. At this occupation he has prospered greatly, adding to his acreage until he now owns 400 acres, all in sections 1 and 2, Manchester, and section 36, Hartland. On this large tract he carries on general farming on an extensive scale. In 1902, he erected a beautiful new residence, replacing the pioneer log cabin in which the family had lived for so many years. Before assuming his present town office, Mr. Olson was a member of the board of supervisors, and at one time served as assessor. He has also been treasurer of the school board of his district some twenty-two years. The subject of this sketch was married December 22, 1883, to Martha Peterson, and this union has been blessed with four children: Mabel M., the wife of Rudolph Furgersen; Hilda M., Esther J. and Ole Malankton, the latter three being at home. The family faith is that of the Lutheran Church.

**Mads Olson**, the pioneer, was born in Norway, and came to America in 1854, going at once to Illinois where he engaged in railroad work, and working the first winter in the pineries. In 1856 he came to Freeborn county, via Winnishiek county, Iowa. Later he went back to Winnishiek county, and in 1858 was there married to Martha Hanson who came to America in 1856. Together they came to Freeborn county, and located on land in sections 1 and 2, Manchester township, which Mads had acquired from the government by preëmption at \$1.25 an acre. They lived for a time in a dug-out, and there their first son was born. Later they erected a log cabin. Mads Olson became a prosperous farmer, and in time acquired 600 acres of land. He died August 15, 1896, and his wife died July 30, 1875.

**James Hansen**, one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Freeborn township was born in Denmark on the island of Fryen, January 7, 1837, son of Hans Hansen. In 1856, James migrated to America, first settling in Manitowoc, Wis.,



where he obtained employment at whatever offered itself. For a time he worked in a shingle mill, later on a farm, then in the leather manufactory of J. T. Wright, at Janesville, Wis. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, 8th United States Infantry, and served three years. After being mustered out of service he returned to Janesville and worked in the hardware business for a year. In 1867 he came to Freeborn township and purchased a farm in section 27. While breaking the rude prairie and converting it into fertile acres he lived in a "dug-out" dug in the side of a hill. At the end of two years he went back to Janesville and married Augusta Dorn. With his wife he then returned to the farm in Freeborn county, where they have ever since lived. This fall they are leaving their farm and taking up their residence in their new home in the village of Freeborn, where they will spend their declining years in comfort, enjoying the fruits of a well-spent life. Eight children have been born to them: Joseph, Mary, Helen, Thomas, Louis and Henry (twins), Hannah and Nettie. Thomas died when an infant. Helen Sorènson died in 1904, leaving her husband and two sons. Mary is now Mrs. Louis Andersen. Mr. Andersen was killed by an electric shock. Hannah is the wife of Alfred Parsons, and Nettie is Mrs. Harry Johnson.

**Oluf Jorgenson**, a progressive farmer of Riceland, was born in Bath township, this county, May 9, 1870. The father, George, a native of Denmark, came to the United States in 1856 and first located in Chicago for a time. He then came to Freeborn county and located on land in Bath township, again moving and going to New Richland, Minn., where he remained until 1886. In that year he came once more to this country and bought a farm in Riceland and followed general farming till his death in 1901. His wife, mother of Oluf, was a native of Norway and died in 1886. Oluf Jorgenson, the subject of this biography, attended school as a boy, and engaged in farming for some years. He afterwards clerked in a hardware store in New Richland five years. Having thus gained experience he purchased a store building at Lerdal and with his brother-in-law opened a general merchandise store, which they continued until 1908. His interest in the store he traded for 160 acres in Riceland, and has since done general farming there. In June, 1893, he married Annie Haugen, of Waseca county, and to them have been born six children, Melvin, Agnes, George, Conrad, Floyd and Orville, all of whom are at home. Mr. Jorgenson is a member and a regular attendant of the Lutheran Church. In politics he supports the tenets of the Republican party and has held several offices including positions on the school board. For a number of years he was postmaster at







MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL H. KRAUSHAAR



Lerdal. He is an active supporter of the dairying interests of the locality and is a stockholder in the creamery.

**S. H. Kraushaar** is a modern and scientific farmer who owns 200 acres of valuable land in section 35 in the township of Alden. He was born in Iowa June 15, 1854, son of John and Sarah (Beck) Kraushaar. His father was a native of Germany who came to the United States in 1846, and was employed for a time in Illinois. He then went to Michigan where he was married. He brought his wife to Austin, Minn., and they made their home in that city for about four years, after which they moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, and remained there for eight years. Returning to Minnesota they settled in Mansfield township and here passed the remainder of their lives. Samuel H., the subject of this biography was educated in the common schools. When he was twenty-two years of age he purchased a farm in Alden, and has here since conducted diversified farming. He married Margaret, daughter of Hans Nelson, and their home has been brightened by the arrival of six children; Daisy, wife of Clark Hord, Joseph, George, Esther, Lee and Andrew, the latter being deceased. Mr. Kraushaar has served as a member of the school board and at present is road overseer in his district. He is a Republican in politics, and belongs to the Seventh Day Advent Church.

**Christ. M. Larsen**, a highly esteemed citizen of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark, September 9, 1852, son of Lars Borup and Helena (Mork) Borup. The subject of this biography was educated in the schools of his native land and there reached his majority. In 1873 he crossed the ocean and landed in America; coming west to Iowa where he located in Marshall county, purchased land, and carried on agricultural industries for a period of six years. He later sold this farm and moved to Hamilton county, in the same state, where he farmed until 1898, after which he disposed of the farm and moved into the city of Albert Lea, where he now lives in retirement. He purchased land, erected a home in this city and has taken an active interest in all charitable movements in the city, having been a liberal contributor to the hospital. Aside from his property in Albert Lea, Mr. Larsen has various real estate holdings, owning a quarter section in Alberta, Canada. He also owns a bottling plant in Albert Lea, and his present prosperity has been reached by years of earnest effort and close application to duty. Mr. Larsen is in every sense of the phrase, a self made man, and he often relates the story of his arrival in this country when he possessed but 10 cents. He affiliates with the Republican party, and attends the Quaker Church, contributing liberally to its



support. He has won the respect and regard of his fellow man by his many philanthropies.

**L. P. Lawson**, a venerable and esteemed farmer residing in Geneva township was born in Denmark, October 16, 1844, and came to this country in 1852 with his parents, Hans and Mary C. Lawson. They first settled in Raymond, Racine county, Wisconsin, where the father secured employment, and there they remained for twelve years, after which they moved to Bath, Minn., and here the parents lived for the remainder of their lives. L. P. Lawson, the subject of this biography, is the eldest of three children, one of whom, Nels, is now deceased: the other, James, is living in North Dakota. Mr. Lawson was educated in the schools of the county and later learned the carpenter's trade, an occupation which he followed for fifteen years after which he engaged in farming. At the present time he is able to do the necessary carpentry work required on his farm; and all the improvements here, he, with the able assistance of his sons, has made. Mary K. Peterson became his wife in 1869. She died January 23, 1911, leaving four children: William, living at Owatonna; Albert, Mary and Mark, at home. Mr. Lawson owns 400 acres of land which is worked by himself and sons, and they have improved this farm until now it is one of the valuable farms in the township. It is situated about one and one-half miles from the village of Geneva. Mr. Lawson has been a candidate for the Legislature on the Prohibition ticket, and he favors the Prohibition views. He has been chairman of Geneva township for several years, also clerk of school board in District 82 for twenty-six years, which proves the great regard in which he is held by his townsmen. In all coöperative enterprises which have for their object the betterment of the farmer and the improvement of farm conditions he has taken a prominent part. He has been president of the Freeborn County Creamery and Buttermakers' Association for several years and of the Farmers' Live Stock Union of Freeborn county since its organization. He has served fifteen years as secretary of the Geneva Village Creamery and is also secretary of the Clarks Grove Lumber Stock & Fuel Co. He is a stockholder in the Clarks Grove Mercantile Co., the Clarks Grove Hardware & Implement Co., and the State Bank of Clarks Grove. He has taken a deep interest in the Danish Baptist Church of Clarks Grove and has the unusual distinction of having served as Sunday School superintendent in this congregation for a period of forty years.

**Lars Lunde**, one of the successful farmers of Hayward, was born in Norway in 1836, and came to America in 1865, being followed in 1869 by his parents, Nels and Ragnheld Lunde, who came from Norway, and died the year of their arrival. Lars,



upon arriving in this country, went first to Wisconsin where he remained a short time in the pineries, after which he made a trip to Minnesota, where he had relatives. He next went to Michigan and secured employment in a lumber camp. He was three years in one employ as foreman, and did the scaling for the Pere Marquette Lumber Co. two years. He continued lumbering until 1871. Then he located in Hayward township, where he has since made his home. Mr. Lunde owns 160 acres of good farm land, and also has ten acres of timber. He engages in diversified farming, keeps a herd of some twenty-two cows and sells the products of his dairy to the Hayward Coöperative Creamery, of which he has been the treasurer since it was established. At intervals during his life he has held many town offices, but has now retired from public service and devotes his time and energies to conducting agricultural pursuits. His well-improved farm and good substantial home are the results of years of industry. Mr. Lunde affiliates with the Democratic party, and attends the Norwegian Lutheran Church, to the support of which he liberally contributes. Mr. Lunde is justly proud of a rare book of family genealogy which he possesses. This book is well illustrated and traces the fortunes and genealogy of the family back to 1585, thus forming a most valuable possession. The subject of this sketch was married September 21, 1869, to Carrie Gulbrandson, daughter of Endre Gulbrandson, the pioneer. To this union eleven children have been born: Magdalena is the wife of J. J. Hove, banker at Hayward. Gulbrand is a farmer living in North Dakota. Pauline, Marion and Edwin are dead. Gertrude is the wife of E. C. Sebra. Martha is the wife of Gilbert Skow, a merchant of Hayward. Hilda is an expert stenographer for the law firm of Morgan & Meighen at Albert Lea. Barbara and Carl are at home. Lars recently graduated from the Albert Lea High School.

**C. J. Larson**, a popular resident of Clarks Grove was born in Denmark June 22, 1869. He came to America with his parents, J. C. and Julina (Berthelson) Larson, when he was fourteen years of age, and they settled in Geneva, where the father followed general farming until his death, in 1902. The mother makes her home with her son at the present time. C. J. Larson attended the schools of his native land and completed his studies in the public schools of this county. As a young man he farmed out, conducted agricultural operations for himself, carried the mail between Owatonna and Albert Lea, and engaged in teaming in Geneva. In 1903 he came to Clarks Grove, and here, with his brother Bert as a partner under the firm name of Larson Brothers, he conducts a livery, engaging also in draying and



house moving. In February, 1908, he married Carrie Paulson, daughter of Jens Paulson, of Bath township. They are the parents of one child, Ray W. Mr. Larson votes with the Republicans, but has never sought office in his township. He is an industrious, hard-working man, who has made all he possesses by careful management and farsightedness. Bert Larson, partner and brother of C. J. Larson, is a mail carrier on Route 1, out of the Clarks Grove postoffice. He married Hanna Olson.

**A. W. Massee** was born in Oneida county, New York, May 5, 1845, the son of John Massee. He came to Minnesota in 1875, settled in Carlson township, bought a farm in section 24, and continued to follow general farming till 1893. Since that time he has rented 240 acres of his land and has lived a retired life in the vicinity of Albert Lea, having a very attractive home in Oakhurst Park. In February, 1887, he married Sarah Emergene Walker, daughter of Asa Walker, the pioneer. Mrs. Massee was one of the pioneer teachers of the county, her first school being in district 18, Manchester township, where she taught twenty-five terms, being the first teacher in that school. Mr. Massee has never given a large amount of time to politics. He has been elected to some minor offices, but has refused to serve. He is a Prohibitionist of independent mind. The family church is the Methodist.

**Asa Walker**, now deceased, was for many years a prominent resident in the township of Carlston. He was one of the first members of the board of county supervisors, after the organization of this town, having come here in 1859. He was born in Vermont May 31, 1813, and grew to manhood in that state. In 1840 he married Mary Bruce and later they moved to Dane county, Wisconsin. They came to Carlston in 1859. In 1862 and 1863 Mr. Walker was a member of the state legislature. He also held many local offices, and was enrolling officer during the war. To Mr. and Mrs. Walker two children were born: W. H. and Sarah Emergene. The wife and mother entered into rest in January, 1880, and Mr. Walker passed away in August, 1887. As Mr. Walker was one of the early pioneers, he erected a log house, and in true pioneer style, roofed it with "shakes." His daughter, Sarah Emergene, now Mrs. A. W. Massee, well remembers the trip from Wisconsin to Minnesota and recalls that she lead the colt the whole distance. The first Thanksgiving dinner was held by several families together, and in the absence of the men of the families, the women each contributed what they could. The bill of fare contained only samp (cracked corn), milk, one sweet cake and rye coffee.

**John Murtaugh** was born in Old Castle county, Ireland, and came to the United States with his wife Catherine (Fox)







JOHN W. MURTAUGH AND FAMILY



Murtaugh, in 1840. They made their first home in this country on Forty-second street, New York city, and later moved to Port Chester. In July 1856 the family came to Minnesota and settled in Albert Lea township, where he pre-empted a claim of 160 acres and followed farming. Many were the hardships endured by this family, and at times they subsisted entirely on bread made of corn meal, wheat being scarce and expensive. During hay-making season for three successive years they went without the midday meal, and in the fall of 1857 their principal article of food was cottage cheese. These privations are but a few of those experienced by this sturdy family, who overcame their difficulties and established their home in the wilderness, which, though rude at first, was eventually one of comfort and convenience. Mr. Murtaugh was summoned by death January 1, 1882, and his widow entered into rest May 28, 1891.

**J. W. Murtaugh**, a pioneer resident of Albert Lea township and veteran of the Civil War, was born in Port Chester, New York, October 3, 1842, son of John and Catherine Murtaugh, who came West when he was a boy and located in Albert Lea. He received his earlier education in New York and later attended school in Albert Lea. Subsequently he went to Wells, where he studied to fit himself for the work of a teacher, and passed the examination which entitled him to a teachers' certificate, but deciding that he preferred a farmer's life, he returned to his home and worked with his father until the latter's death in 1882. Mr. Murtaugh married Chloe Knapp, who was born in Medina, Medina county, Ohio, April 3, 1847, daughter of Charles T. and Mary (Hamilton) Knapp, the pioneers. The Knapps moved from Ohio to Medina in 1852, and came to Minnesota in June, 1855, settling in section 36, Albert Lea township, continuing farming all their days. C. T. Knapp died in April, 1906, and his wife in 1872. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Murtaugh has resulted in the birth of eleven children. The living are: William, at home; Edward, employed in the postoffice at Albert Lea; Thomas, working for the C. P. & R. I.; Leonard, a clerk in the postoffice at Albert Lea; Bernard, in the railway postal service; Hulda, holding a position in the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown; Annie, the wife of George Carny, of Marshalltown, and Lucy, a stenographer in Mason City. Cora M., Mary and Margaret J. are deceased. Mr. Murtaugh owns a well-kept farm of eighty acres and engages in general and dairy farming, disposing of his dairy products to the Glenville Coöperative Creamery. He lost his first house by fire and then built his present comfortable home, drawing the lumber for it from Owatonna. He has been school clerk for twenty years and also town assessor for the same length of time. He is a member of



the Old Settlers' Association, and one of the venerable and respected men of the township. He also belongs to the G. A. R. J. W. Murtaugh enlisted in Company H, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and was mustered in October 31, 1862. He was honorably discharged November 24, 1863, having served in the battle of Big Mound July 24, 1863; the battle of Stormy Lake July 25; the battle of Dead Buffalo Lake July 26, and the battle at Camp Stanton, on the Missouri river, July 30.

**W. H. Miller**, proprietor of the "Home Farms," and for nearly all his life a resident of Freeborn township, came here as a boy, during the closing years of the Civil War, and has watched the county grow from a pioneer community to its present thriving and prosperous condition. He was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, September 19, 1857, son of John and Samantha (Woodward) Miller, who brought him to Freeborn township when he was about seven years old, in 1864. He received his education in the district schools, and later taught in the district in which he had received his boyhood lessons. He has since devoted his life to farming. In 1874 he erected his first house, which was across the street from his boyhood home. In 1895 he erected his present modern and comfortable home, and three years later built a fine and commodious barn, fifty by eighty feet. He owns 320 acres of land, and carries on general farming with great success. Being a thorough believer in the tiling system of farm drainage he has laid several thousand feet, and the result has more than justified his expectations. Mr. Miller is especially fond of his fine herd of Holstein-Fresian cattle, being in this connection a member of the Freeborn County Breeders' Association and of the Holstein-Fresian Association of America. He is a stockholder of the Freeborn Creamery and was one of the directors of that institution for several years. At the present time Mr. Miller is chairman of his township. He was assessor twenty-two years, and school treasurer for many terms. He is also vice-president of the First State Bank of Freeborn. Fraternally he is a member of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, of the M. B. A., and the M. W. A., having been clerk of the latter for many years. Mr. Miller married Amanda, the daughter of Carl and Mary (Wasmer) Leonard, born August 25, 1857, in Manchester township, this county. Seven children have blessed their home. They are: Henry D., Sidney R., Merry C., Elsie M., Anna R., Robert B. and Alice F. L. Merry C. married Earl Longshare, and they have one daughter, Beverly. Elsie M. is the wife of Charles C. Cornwell, of Arizona. Mr. Miller is highly esteemed and is one of Freeborn county's wide-awake and enthusiastic farmers, always alert to whatever may be





MR. AND MRS. W. H. MILLER





for the advancement of the farmer and the welfare of the town and county.

**John Miller**, who died in February, 1911, in his ninety-second year, was born in Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., and in 1848 came to Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he carried on farming for several years. He brought his family to Freeborn township in 1864, and securing land, continued his occupation of tilling the soil for forty years. His wife, Samantha Woodward-Miller, is yet living at the age of eighty-three years.

**W. C. Mitchell**, noted for many years as chief of the Albert Lea Fire Department, was born in Erie county, New York, on April 10, 1854, the son of Charles and Katherine (Murray) Mitchell, natives of England and Ireland respectively. Charles Mitchell came to America about 1850 and settled in Erie county, where he met Katherine Murray and was married. They came to Wisconsin at an early day, locating in Rock county, where they farmed. Then they moved to Jefferson county, where they also farmed. In 1868 they removed to Martin county, Minnesota, where they farmed until 1890. Charles then retired and still lives at Fairmont, in Martin county, at the age of eighty-three. His wife died in December, 1888. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Martin county, Minnesota. Leaving school, he farmed until 1877, then came to Albert Lea and established a mercantile business which he conducted for two and one-half years, after which he sold the business. In the spring of 1880 Mr. Mitchell was appointed chief of police, holding that office for four years. He was then appointed deputy sheriff for three years. The following twelve years Mr. Mitchell held the office of county sheriff. In January, 1901, he went with the Central Minnesota Land Company, and remained in their employ for two years. At the end of that time he joined the Jones Land Company, for which company he worked one year. Since that time he has handled real estate for himself. In the year 1880 Mr. Mitchell was married to Helen Rue, a native of Racine county, Wisconsin. Their home has been blessed with two children: Bernice, who died, and Beatrice C., who is at home. Mr. Mitchell is a Republican politically, and a member of the Christian Church. He affiliates with the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery at Albert Lea and with Osman Temple of A. A. O. N. M. S., St. Paul. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W. Mr. Mitchell served as chief of the Albert Lea Volunteer Fire Department for twenty-eight years, and has been a fireman for thirty-two years. He is a member of the Firemen's Relief Association, and served as president of Minnesota Fire Department Association in 1887. Mr. Mitchell was a delegate from the state association to the



national convention, held at Kansas City in 1905, and the following year he represented the state association at Roanoke, Va. During the following years he was sent to represent them at the International Association of Chief Engineers at Washington, D. C. Mr. Mitchell owns his pleasant home at 221 South Pearl street. In 1911, Mr. Mitchell resigned his position as chief of the Albert Lea Fire Department, which he had held so long and so honorably, and on April 1, 1911, was appointed state factory inspector by Governor A. O. Eberhardt. It is worthy of note that he is a life honorary member of the State Fire Department Association, and has served as high priest of Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, R. A. M.

**John A. Severson**, a prosperous farmer of Manchester, is one of the influential men in that community. He has occupied many public offices in the township, greatly to his own credit and the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, having been school director for fifteen years, supervisor of the town for three years, assessor for two years and treasurer for five years. He still occupies the latter office, and his services are very satisfactory. Mr. Severson was born in Sogn, Norway, September 5, 1852, and came to the United States in 1854 with his parents. Andrew and Johanna Severson. He acquired his education in the common schools of Manchester township, and has since engaged in agricultural pursuits. He owns 243½ acres of land, and together with general farming he is interested in dairying, for which purpose he keeps a good herd of Shorthorn cattle. He purchased his well-improved farm in 1882, and its present prosperous condition is due to his untiring efforts to make it one of the valuable farms in the county. He married Cary Olson, daughter of Ole Olson, a resident of South Dakota, June 27, 1883, and this marriage has resulted in six children: Alfred, married Minna Gunderson, and lives in Burley county, North Dakota; Hannah is the wife of Berger Sebersen, of Cresbard, S. D.; Toby is engaged in the banking business of Lake Mills, Iowa; Edwin and Mathilda are at home; Julia died when sixteen years of age. Mr. Severson upholds the tenets of the Republican party, and is a respected member of the Synod Lutheran Church. He is actively interested in the local creamery, of which he is now the treasurer, having been elected to this office for the past seven years. For five years he has been the director of this same institution. In both business and social interests, Mr. Severson has the esteem of the citizens of the township and is indeed one of the leading men of the county. He is a stockholder in the Citizen's National Bank of Albert Lea and also in the Manchester State Bank.





JOHN A. SEVERSON AND FAMILY





**Andrew Severson** came from Norway to America in 1854 and located in Boone county, Illinois, where he followed general farming for three years, after which he moved to Manchester township, this county, July 16, 1857, coming by ox team from Boone county, Illinois. Here he acquired land and engaged in farming, making his home in this place until his death, which occurred June 7, 1909. To himself and wife, Johanna Severson, were born eight children, of whom three, Susan, Sever and Britta, are deceased; Betsie married A. J. Stodheim and lives in Bath, Minn.; John A. is a resident of Manchester, Minn.; Mary is the wife of E. J. Hallum; Severina is now Mrs. Charles Stout, of Minneapolis, and Julia married John Kabrud, of McPherson county, South Dakota; Susan married John Ellingson, and they had eight children. In 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Ellingson moved to Polk county, Minnesota, and there Susan died. After her death Mr. Ellingson moved to Canada, and there he died.

**Andrew Stoddart**, now deceased, was one of the well-known farmers in Carlston. He was born in Scotland and came to America when a young man and settled in Wisconsin. He married Louisa Holland, daughter of George and Mary (Hampson) Holland, and for two years after their marriage they made their home in Wisconsin, where they were engaged in general farming. In 1881 they came to Carlston township and located in section 8 on a farm which comprises 120 acres. Here they established their permanent home and reared their family, and it was here that Mr. Stoddart passed away in 1905. Mrs. Stoddart, with the help of her sons, has continued to run the farm since her husband's death. To Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart were born the following children: George, John, Andrew, Mary, wife of Herbert Scoville; Morris, Olive, Meda, Martha, David, Jennie and William. Jennie died December 11, 1904. Mr. Stoddart was an active worker for the interests of the township of Carlston, and for many years was a member of the school board, and he belonged to the M. W. A. Mrs. Stoddart was a loving and sympathetic companion in all his endeavors, and proved a devoted wife, a faithful and loving mother and a staunch friend.

**N. C. Sorenson**, a busy contractor of Albert Lea, is a native of Denmark, having been born there on January 9, 1866, the son of Christian and Anna (Christianson) Sorenson. The father was a farmer in Denmark. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Denmark. Upon leaving school, he learned the carpenter trade. In the year 1882 he came to America, locating at Evansville, Minn., where he followed his trade for a short time, after which he removed to Breton, S. D., where he did carpenter work for about seven years. From there Mr. Soren-



son went to the city of Duluth, where he remained for a short time. Leaving Duluth, he came to Albert Lea, in 1890, followed his trade for three years, and then established a contracting business, in which he is very successful, having built his share of the best buildings of Albert Lea, among which may be mentioned: The Auditorium, the Wedge-Jones building, the Third Ward school building, the Gulbrandson building, the A. P. Hanson business house, the Naeve & Soth building, Albert Lea Gas Light Co. building and numerous structures out of the city. In 1897 Mr. Sorenson was united in marriage to Matilda Hanson, daughter of Lars Hanson, of Albert Lea. Their union has been blessed by two children, Phoebe and Russell, both at home. In politics Mr. Sorenson is a Republican. He attends the English Lutheran Church. Mr. Sorenson is an officer of all the Masonic orders in Albert Lea, and belongs also to Zurah Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., Minneapolis, the K. of P., the Royal Arcanum, M. W. A. and I. O. O. F. He is now serving in the city council as alderman from the First ward and is vice-president of the People's Building & Loan Association. His home is situated at 124 St. Mary street. Mr. Sorenson is always interested in Albert Lea's advancement and is one of it's substantial citizens. His office is located in the Wedge-Jones building. In addition to the lodges named he is a member of the Business Men's League and of the Albert Lea Automobile Association.

**George Seath**, a sturdy early settler of Freeborn township, was born in Scotland, October 15, 1833, and was brought to America by his parents when but five weeks old. He lived with his parents in New York city a year, and then was taken by them to Delaware county, in the same state, where he spent his boyhood. At the age of about eighteen years, he came to Wisconsin and located in Fond du Lac county. February 9, 1858, he married Phoebe Larrabee, of Wisconsin. In 1861 they came to Minnesota and located in section 27, Freeborn township, where they reared their family and farmed for many years. George Seath now lives in Lyman county, South Dakota.

**Ira Herbert Seath** is an extensive landowner and prosperous farmer of Freeborn township. He is a progressive citizen, and his influence in the community has ever been toward true development and improvement. He was born in Alto township, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, June 21, 1860, son of George and Phoebe (Larrabee) Seath. He came with them to Freeborn county in 1861, and here attended the public schools. He assisted his father on the farm as a boy and thus learned the lessons of industry and energy which have proven so valuable to him in after years. He now owns a fine farm of 240 acres which he cultivates, and also a tract of eighty acres not adjoining the



home place. Mr. Seath votes as he deems best, and has never sought political preferment. He married Lucy Challis, daughter of Seth Challis, a native of Vermont, and their union has been blessed with nine children: Bercy E., Lura E., Sidney H., Ira C., Ada L., Clarence E., Manferd W., Dwight M. and Fern, the latter of whom is dead. The family are members of the Congregational Church at Freeborn village. Mr. Seath affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**George A. Seath** is a prosperous and substantial farmer in Freeborn township, where he has ever labored for the best interests of the community. He is a believer in progress in agricultural endeavor, and pursues this vocation along the latest approved lines. George A. Seath is a native of Freeborn county, born in Freeborn township February 4, 1867, son of George and Phoebe (Larrabee) Seath. He attended the district schools and received a good education which he has supplemented with wide reading. He started farming as a boy and has since continued this occupation, having a fine tract of 240 acres in section 21, Freeborn township. He has a comfortable home, and his barns and outbuildings are models of comfort and convenience. The subject of this sketch was married November 28, 1895, to Reeca Peterson, who has proven a most able and intelligent helpmate in all his undertakings. Three children, Leslie A., Myron G. and Russell W. have blessed their home. Mr. Seath is greatly interested in education and is doing good service as treasurer of School District No. 101.

**Rev. Paul G. Ostby**, venerable pastor and teacher, is a native of Norway, born August 12, 1836, son of Gjermund and Inger (Johnson) Ostby. His father died while Paul G. was an infant and his mother died in 1893 at the advanced age of ninety-three years. Paul G. came to the United States in 1868, after receiving an education equal to the full course of our normal schools of today. On arrival he at once entered the Theological Seminary at Paxton, Ill., which, during his time as a student there, was moved to Marshall, Wis., and it was there that he completed the course in that institution. On January 6, 1871, he was ordained, and for one year was assistant to Rev. C. L. Clausen, of St. Ansgar, Iowa, who had more than he could attend to in church work. Rev. Ostby took up the work of the then small parishes of Austin, Red Oak Grove, Blooming Prairie and Little Cedar at Adams. This work he performed with such excellent results that he was given this district as his own work and had full charge till 1877, when he was called to the work of southern Freeborn county and northern Iowa, where he is still serving a very large and appreciative congregation. When he first took up this work he had congregations at Lake Mills and Lime



Creek. Not satisfied with only continuing the work already begun he assembled and successfully ministered to congregations at Emmons and Bethel, as well as other points, which have grown to substantial churches. He now conducts the congregations at Emmons, Bethel and his largest one at Lime Creek. He was for seventeen years "visatator" or presiding elder in the Northern Iowa district, visiting sixty congregations and twenty-four ministers in performing the duties of that position. Aside from his work as a minister he is a man of business and affairs. He has a farm of 160 acres in section 35, Mansfield, where he follows general and dairy farming. On December 1, 1871, he married Goro Thornby, who died January 10, 1908. To this union were born nine children. Six are living: George, of Forest City, Iowa; Bernhard, of Minneapolis; Paul, at home; Selmer, of St. Paul; James, of Seattle; Otto, of Minneapolis. On July 14, 1909, the subject of this biography married Ranvei Morkve, of Mansfield. Rev. Ostby is held in the highest respect by his congregations and all others of his community, and is loved not more as a minister than as a friend and neighbor.

**Ole I. Opdahl**, the most extensive landowner in Freeborn county, was born in Norway on January 5, 1852, son of Iver and Ingeborg (Goden) Opdahl, who came to America in 1864, bringing with them their son, Ole. They located first in Wisconsin, where they remained for only six weeks, after which they came to Minnesota and settled in Nunda township, where they homesteaded land in sections 19 and 30 and engaged in agricultural pursuits for the remainder of their lives, the wife and mother passing away on October 10, 1890, and the father on June 15, 1897. Ole, the subject of this biography, was twelve years of age when he came to this country, and he remained at home with his father on the farm in Nunda until he became twenty-two years old, at which time he purchased 160 acres in section 11, Mansfield township. Here he made many improvements, erected good buildings, carefully cultivated the soil, planted crops and carried on general farming. As he grew more prosperous, he bought more land and at the present time, he owns 1,540 acres in this county, all of which are in one farm, with the exception of 160 acres. Mr. Opdahl also owns 960 acres in Polk county, this state, which is well improved and which he rents. Mr. Opdahl has ever been a staunch Republican and he has been elected to serve in some of the responsible public offices in the county and state. From 1903 until 1905 he served in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and he has been elected from the Fifth district to serve as county commissioner for eight years. Among other public offices which he has held are supervisor, treasurer and chairman of the town,







MR. AND MRS. OLE I. OPDAHL







IVER SORLIE AND FAMILY



and for thirty-two years he has been school treasurer. He is a stockholder and director of Citizens National Bank of Albert Lea, and president of and owner of one-third interest in the Walker Milling and Electric Light Co. of Alden. On September 22, 1874 Mr. Opdahl married Betsy Davidson. She was born in Norway on February 14, 1853, daughter of Lars and Guri (Tveit) Davidson, who came to America in 1862 and were among the early settlers in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Opdahl became the parents of thirteen children: Lewis O. resides in Mansfield township; Ingeborg is the wife of Albert Monson, a contractor of Chicago; Guri is the wife of Sever Bidne, of Mansfield; Iver and David are at home; Anna married Anstein Laugen, of Mansfield; Martha is at home; Nora married Selmar Bye, of Winnebago county, Iowa; Olena is the wife of Gilbert Olson, of Polk county, Minn.; Oscar, Henry, Brita and Albert are at home. The wife and devoted mother died on April 13, 1900. The family faith is that of the Lutheran Church.

**Louis O. Opdahl**, native of Freeborn county, was born September 21, 1874, the son of Ole I. Opdahl. Louis O. attended the country schools and later Luther Academy in Albert Lea. In 1899 he went to Polk county, where he rented land and farmed for four years. On returning from Polk county he began working his 178-acre farm in section 14, where he still resides. He now rents 220 acres of land in addition to his own farm and carries on general farming and stock raising. On September 30, 1899, he married Mary Vinge, and to them have been born seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The living are Britha, Alvin, Walter, Henry and Harry. Britha and Alvin attend school and are doing well with their studies. Mr. Opdahl is a member of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican.

**Iver Sorlie**, respected and substantial citizen of Hartland, and a veteran of the Civil War, was born in Norway July 25, 1835, son of Jacob and Kari (Crippen) Sorlie. He received his education in Norway and came to America in 1853, locating in Wisconsin for a short time. In 1859 he came to Minnesota and located in Hartland township, where he bought 160 acres in section 25. This land he broke and developed, building first a log house, and later replacing this with a comfortable frame house, and the necessary farm buildings. With the years he prospered and added 160 acres in section 18, Bath township, making in all a fine farm of 320 acres, on which he still conducts general farming and where he has raised his splendid family of children. Mr. Sorlie has spent his life on a farm with the exception of the years of the Civil War. January 1, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infan-



try as a private. He was wounded in the left limb at the battle of Murfreesboro and was captured after lying three days on the battlefield, unable to move. He was first sent to the hospital at Nashville, and then transferred to the hospital at New Albany, Ind., being three months in each hospital. He was discharged for disability at Louisville, Ky., and then returned to Hartland, where he has since lived. Mr. Sorlie is a Republican in politics, and served as town supervisor several years, being also school director for a long term. He was married September 26, 1859, to Mary Olson, born in Norway February 4, 1841, daughter of Ole Christiansen and Gunhild Peterson. This union has been blessed with thirteen children. Each member of this family living is respected and honored, and many of the children have attained more than usual prominence in the communities where they have made their homes. Ingar lives in Churches Ferry, N. D.; Oscar lives in Buckston, N. D.; Volborg married Andrew Lergerg and lives at Ellendale, Minn.; Arthur lives in Grand Forks, N. D.; Victor resides in Hartland township; Carl lives in Grand Forks, N. D.; Wilhelm is at home; Jacob is a merchant in Hartland village; Esther is the wife of Selmer Anderson, who is a merchant in Hartland village with Jacob Sorlie; Josephine, Oscar, Caroline and Louisa are dead. The parents of Iver Sorlie came to America from Norway in 1868 and spent the remainder of their lives farming in Iowa. The parents of Mrs. Sorlie came to America from Norway with their family in 1854 and lived a time at Decorah, Iowa. Two years later the mother died and the father went to Pike's Peak, Col., where he died.

**L. H. Rasmusson**, who came to this country from Norway with his parents when but two years of age, was born August 21, 1867, son of Ellen and Henry Rasmusson, who settled in Winnebago county, Iowa, where they both passed away. Here their son, L. H., grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools. When sixteen year of age he began working out, and in 1893 he bought 280 acres of land in section 36, in Mansfield township. He has here followed general farming and has a fine comfortable home. In May, 1893, he married Julia Kuntson, of Mansfield township, and to them have been born seven children: Helmer, Eddie, Carl, Theodore, Oscar, Antone and Louis. Mr. Rasmusson is a member of the Lime Creek Lutheran Church. He votes with the Republican party and has been a member of the school board in District 86 for thirteen years. Mr. Rasmusson has tiled and otherwise improved his land, bringing nearly every fertile acre under cultivation, and now is enjoying the fruits of his labor and farsightedness. He is a stockholder in the Union Creamery of Emmons. Mr.







JORGEN P. SKOV AND FAMILY



Rasmusson has five brothers and two sisters: Rasmus, of North Dakota; Henry, of Lake Mills, Iowa; Nick, of Winnebago county, Iowa; John, who lives with L. H. in Mansfield township; Andrew, of Lake Mills, Iowa; Mary, wife of J. Thompson, of Searville, Iowa, and Anne, the wife of Axle Jenson, of La Sueur, Minn.

**Hellick Knutson (Helle)** and his wife, Christie, came to America from Norway in 1855, and in 1858 came to Freeborn county and settled in section 36, Mansfield, on the farm where their son-in-law, L. H. Rasmusson, now lives. They secured 240 acres of land which they broke and developed and brought to a good stage of cultivation. There he carried on general farming until his death, Oct. 27, 1884. His wife is still living at the age of eighty-six years, making her home on the old place with L. H. Rasmusson. They had eight children. Three are living: Emma, wife of John Berg, of Winnebago county, Iowa; Julia, now Mrs. L. H. Rasmusson, of Mansfield township, and Rachael, now Mrs. N. Rasmusson, of Winnebago county, Iowa. The deceased are Knute, Thor, Ole, Anna and Maria.

**J. P. Skov** is one of the estimable citizens of Carlston township, and has assisted in its growth and progress. He is an active church member, possessing intelligence and good sense to an unusual degree, thus making his opinions on all questions highly valued by those who seek his advice. He was born in Denmark July 22, 1855, and in 1882 he came to America with his parents, locating one summer at Alden. The next year he and his brother purchased a farm in section 17, Carlston township, and lived on it about thirteen years. Then they disposed of it, and J. P. secured land in sections 23 and 24 in the same township. Mr. Skov has one of the finest farms in Freeborn county. Its 280 acres, of which 174 are under cultivation, with its comfortable and pleasant home and spacious barns and sheds for the cattle and grain are an index both of his prosperity and progress, and of his hard work and scientific methods. Mr. Skov has seen much public life. He has been supervisor of his town and is now clerk of the school board of his district. He has been president, secretary and clerk of the Carlston Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, and has done much to promote the growth of that congregation. He is also a stockholder in the Alden Creamery. By his first wife, Margaret Olson, he has one son, Laurits Walter, who was born March 9, 1885, and lives in Chicago. After the death of his first wife he married Anna Barner, who was born in Denmark April 4, 1888. This union has been blessed with nine children: Axel T., born February 7, 1889; Clara, born September 5, 1890; Emma, born April 26, 1892; Jorgen P., born September 20, 1894; Anna, born April 19, 1896; Sophie, born May 17, 1898; Sigurd, born November



14, 1900; Harold, born March 11, 1903, and Dagmar, born July 3, 1906.

**A. T. Schoen**, an extensive land owner and farmer in Freeborn township, is a native of Prescott, Pierce county, Wisconsin, having been born there June 17, 1863, son of John and Caroline (Herald) Schoen, whose sketch appears elsewhere. A. T. Schoen was reared on his father's farm in this county and went to school in the district near his old home. He married Lynda Scott, a daughter of L. T. and Marion (Purdie) Scott, and their marriage was blessed with four children: Lawrence T., Royal L., Marian D., and Clare S. Mr. Schoen has lived on his present farm for the past seventeen years, and it is one of the landmarks in that locality. The farm comprises 320 acres in sections 33 and 34 and is well kept and yields great and valuable crops under the careful cultivation given it. Mr. Schoen is a member of the M. W. A., and also the R. N. A., and he is one of the prominent and foremost citizens in the township. He has served as treasurer of his school district and is a stockholder in the Freeborn creamery and in the First State Bank of Freeborn. Within the past year Mr. Schoen has purchased a residence at Wells, in Faribault county, and moved his family there, to better educate his children. He still conducts his farm, going to and from Wells every week.

**Anders Pedersen**, an esteemed farmer residing in Carlson township, was born in Denmark October 27, 1839, son of Peder Andersen and Anna Bentsen, his wife, who passed their years in their native land. Anders, the subject of this sketch, acquired his education in the Denmark schools, and in that country he spent his boyhood. In 1869 he left his old home and came to America. Upon his arrival in the United States, he proceeded west to Minnesota, where he purchased 80 acres in section 1, Carlston township. Mr. Pedersen here erected a shanty twelve by sixteen feet, broke the land, planted crops and engaged in agricultural pursuits. As he toiled and grew more prosperous he added to his possessions until he became the owner of 210 acres, all in Carlston. Mr. Pedersen carried on general farming for many years, and in 1896 gave his farm to his son, and now lives a retired life on the old home place. Politically he votes independently, and that he has the confidence of the residents of the community has been proven by the various responsible public offices which they have elected him to occupy, among which are assessor, member of the town board, also road overseer for many years. He is a stockholder in the Hartland State Bank. In 1869 Mr. Pedersen married Bodie K. Jensen, who was born in Denmark on May 22, 1841. To Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen two children were born: Jens now conducts the home



farm; Harold married Louise Hunte and resides in Colorado, having two children, George and Helen A. Mrs. Pedersen, the estimable wife and devoted mother, entered into rest on November 30, 1897. The family faith is that of the Danish Lutheran church, of which organization Mr. Pedersen has long been a respected member.

**William Pilgrim**, a retired farmer residing in the village of Oakland, was born in England May 9, 1833, and came to America with his parents in 1837, landing at Quebec. They located in Montreal, where the father for many years worked at his trade as a stone mason. When William was thirteen years old he was "bound out" for five years to learn the stone mason's trade. He completed his apprenticeship and secured some land and engaged in farming, together with his work as a mason. In 1863 he enlisted in Company H, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and went south to Louisiana, where he joined his regiment. June 20, 1865, he was transferred to Company C, Fourteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. For some time he was in the barracks in New Orleans, and later was in the following battles: Sabine Crossing, Pleasant Hill, Cane River, Yellow Bayou, Morganza Bend, and later at the fall of Mobile. He was honorably discharged at Madison, Wis., and mustered out of service October 2, 1865. Then he returned to Wisconsin, where he remained a short time, and, in 1865, came to Minnesota and located in the township of Oakland. He purchased 160 acres of land in Oakland township, section 16, and for some time carried on agricultural pursuits. He some years later sold this property and purchased forty acres in Moscow township. Some years ago he sold this land and purchased his present home in Oakland village. On April 8, 1860, at Beaver Dam, Wis., he married Mary Jane Lightly and this marriage was blessed by the birth of six children: Mary E., Fred E., Louis N., Laura, Minnie, and an unnamed infant. Of the two living Laura married George Torrence, of Oakland, and Minnie married J. T. Bennett, of Moscow. Mr. Pilgrim is a Republican and is proud of the fact that he voted for John C. Fremont. He is a member of the G. A. R., and has been justice of the peace sixteen years and constable in Oakland township twenty years.

**O. R. Petersen** is one of the foremost residents of Carlston township. He was born in Denmark July 14, 1857, and came to America with his parents eleven years later. These worthy people located in Carlston, where the father bought a farm and established a home for himself and family. O. R., the son, grew to manhood here, received his schooling in district 15 and helped his father with the farm work. When he reached his majority he left the old home and went to South Dakota, where he secured



employment and remained for nine years. He then returned to Carlston and bought a farm of eighty acres in section 4, built a comfortable home, planted trees and made many other improvements, and here he successfully engages in farming at the present. Mr. Petersen has held many of the prominent offices in the township, among which are supervisor of the township and member of the school board many years. He has also given excellent service in minor offices in the township. He married Mathea Gulbrandson, and this marriage has resulted in four children: Julia, Walter, Emma and Ida. Mr. Petersen is a Republican in politics, and worships at the Norwegian Lutheran Church. He belongs to the Danish Brotherhood at Alden and the M. W. A. at Freeborn and is a stockholder in the Freeborn creamery. Mrs. Petersen was born in Norway November 23, 1860, daughter of Gulbrand and Martha (Erickson) Gulbrandson, early settlers of Carlston township, where the former still lives, the latter being dead.

**Henry Stiehl**, one of the prosperous farmers of Pickerel Lake township, was born in Germany October 29, 1850. When he was seventeen years of age he came to the United States with his sister, now Mrs. Mary Rasmussen. They proceeded west to Minnesota and were for a short time located in Albert Lea, after which they went to Pickerel Lake and secured employment with different residents of that township. Three years after his arrival in this country Mr. Stiehl sent back to Germany for his brothers, Louis and Christ. In 1872 his parents, Christ and Mary (Scheaffer) Stiehl, born January 18, 1823, and February, 1826, respectively, came to America with the rest of the family and rented the Morin farm for two years. Here they engaged in general farming. Later they moved to the Anthony Huyck farm and subsequently the family moved to the farm which the son, Henry, purchased, and on which is his home at the present time. The father entered into rest April 28, 1901, and the mother eight years later, May 7, 1909. Mr. Stiehl owns 200 acres of land and engages in diversified farming. He has made many improvements on his land and erected the substantial buildings which are not only commodious but pleasing in appearance. He married Caroline Schneider and they are the parents of the following: Edward is a farmer of Pickerel Lake township; Louisa is the wife of George Schmidt, of Mansfield; Ella married Martin Springer, a merchant of Conger; Carrie married Fred Pestorious, a blacksmith; Anna, Henry F. and Esther are living at home. Mr. Stiehl has been elected to serve in various offices of trust in his township and his actions as treasurer of the school district and as member of the board of supervisors of the town have shown him to be the possessor





MR. AND MRS. HENRY STIEHL





of sound sense and keen judgment. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church of Pickerel Lake, to the support of which he has ever contributed generously.

Mr. Stiehl is a staunch Republican in politics. He is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Alden and in the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Manchester. He is also a stockholder in the Conger Creamery and has been a director for several years. The Conger Creamery building at present is the third one erected, and Mr. Stiehl has been instrumental in building all three. Mrs. Stiehl, whose maiden name was Caroline Schneider, was born November 21, 1857, in Wyoming county, New York, daughter of Charles and Jennie (Koesting) Schneider, natives of Germany. Her parents came to America in 1854 and located in Wyoming county, New York. In 1863 they came to Freeborn county and lived on Bear Lake in Nunda township one year. Then they purchased land in Pickerel Lake township and engaged in farming the remainder of their days. The father was born November 23, 1823, and died February 17, 1899. The mother was born March 3, 1821, and died May 8, 1886.

**R. C. Paulson** is the well-known banker of Manchester. His father and mother, Martin and Dora (Green) Paulson, were merchants in Sweden, and learning of the great opportunities offered in America to all who were ambitious, they came to this country in 1880. They located first at Wells, Minn., and later moved to Albert Lea, where Martin Paulson is engaged in a mercantile business at the present time. It was here that their son, R. C., was born November 9, 1886. This son, the eldest of three children, paved the way for his future success in life by acquiring a good education. He attended the graded and high schools of Albert Lea, and after completing their courses, secured employment in the Citizens National Bank of Albert Lea. After three years' experience in this bank he left Albert Lea and accepted a position as manager and assistant cashier of the Manchester State Bank, in which capacity he has the esteem and confidence of its depositors. He served as justice of the peace of Manchester for some time, and is in every way a substantial, estimable and useful citizen.

**John E. Ransom** was born in Albert Lea June 3, 1883. His parents were C. W. Ransom and Mary L. Walsh, natives of Wisconsin. His early education was obtained in Albert Lea, where he graduated in 1901. Following this he spent six years in the University of Minnesota, three years in the academic course and three in the law school, being admitted to the bar in 1907. He then returned to Albert Lea and entered the employ of the Consolidated Fire & Marine Insurance Company, established by his father. Later C. W. Ransom sold a large portion



of the stock and the headquarters of the company were moved to Minneapolis. John E. Ransom remained in charge of the Consolidated local office and is engaged in a general insurance and real estate business with offices at 217 South Broadway. In 1908 he was married to Mary E. Richards, of Duluth. Mr. Ransom is an active factor in the social and political life of the city. He is deeply interested in economic and political subjects, and is an enthusiastic supporter of everything which he believes to be for the welfare of the community which has always been his home.

**C. W. Ransom** was a native of Wisconsin, coming to Freeborn county as a small boy with his parents. Here he was educated in the public schools and later married Mary L. Walsh, also of Wisconsin. After leaving school Mr. Ransom became the agent of the W. W. Cargill Grain & Fuel Company, in Austin, with whom he remained a few years. Returning to Albert Lea he entered the grocery business. Later a partnership was established with his brother, R. G. Ransom, known as Ransom Bros. Wholesale Grocery, which was later incorporated as "The Ransom Bros. Company." In 1901 this corporation sold out to the Western Grocer Company. In 1897 C. W. Ransom established the Consolidated Fire & Marine Insurance Company, becoming president of the firm. After the sale of the grocery business he continued as president of the insurance company until January, 1910, when Minneapolis men bought an extensive interest and the headquarters were transferred to that city, C. W. Ransom remaining with the company as vice-president. During all these years he has been a potential factor in the business life of Albert Lea and an honored citizen. He is now in Texas.

**George C. Schmidt** is a native of Freeborn county and was born on the farm which he now owns, which was formerly the homestead taken by his grandfather when he came here from Illinois in 1856. The grandfather died in 1878. His son, Henry, father of the subject of this biography, was born in Illinois in 1853, on August 26. He came to Mansfield at an early age, in 1856, and grew to manhood here. He married Caroline Leonhardi, who was also a native of Illinois. Henry Schmidt was a highly respected man in his community and acquired land, held many offices of trust and proved his affection for his parents and his old home by living there his whole life. He died March 4, 1897. The mother died February 7, 1911. George C. Schmidt is the oldest living child of Henry and Caroline (Leonhardi) Schmidt, being born March 13, 1883. After completing his school studies he worked out several years but when old enough to assume the responsibility he took charge of the home farm and has since conducted it successfully. He now owns 360 acres in sections





MR. AND MRS. CHRISTIAN LARSEN









MR. AND MRS. PETER PETERSON



9, 10 and 13, in Mansfield. On September 20, 1906, he married Louise Stiehl, a daughter of Henry Stiehl, of Pickerel Lake. To them have been born two children, Ella and Melita. Mr. Schmidt, like his father before him, is a member of the Lutheran Church. He votes with the Republican party.

Mr. Schmidt is one of the young men who can look with pride upon the works and success of his fathers, and it is certain that he today is following in the same way to up-build a country which his forebears had such an important part in starting. He is a director in school district No. 92, and holds stock in the Mansfield Creamery.

**Peter Peterson**, who was one of the progressive and well-known farmers in Bancroft, was born in Denmark March 22, 1839, and came to America with his parents, Peter and Mariah Peterson, in 1853. They made their first home in this country in Wisconsin where the father followed his trade as a weaver. After spending some years there they moved to this county, where they lived until summoned by the Grim Reaper. Peter, their son, and the subject of this biography, purchased the farm in Bancroft in 1863, and for some years lived in a rough log cabin. As time passed and opportunity afforded he made improvements on his property and had a fine home and well cultivated farm. He engaged in general and dairy farming and disposed of his dairy products to the local creamery. He married Mariah Olson October 9, 1888 and they were the parents of the following children: Emma, Agnes, Nellie, Cora, Alfred, Reuben and Nora. Mr. Peterson was a member of the Baptist Church and a Republican. He served his township in the capacity of supervisor and also as a member of the school board. He owned 245 acres of valuable land in Clarks Grove and sold many town lots to the residents of that village. He died February 10, 1911.

**Martin Sprenger**, the well-known and popular merchant of Conger, was born in Pickerel Lake township November 28, 1881. His father, Frederick Sprenger, a native of Waldeck, Germany, was an early settler in this county and homesteaded the farm on which Martin, the subject of this sketch was born and reared. Martin began his early education in the district school near his father's farm and later attended the Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul. After completing his studies in the Seminary he returned to his home on the farm and worked for his father for a few months and then went to Mankato, where he took a six months' course in the commercial college of that city. His first position after completing his business education was with Skinner, Chamberlain & Company, of Albert Lea, and he remained in the employ of this firm for a period of eighteen

months, after which he went into business with F. E. Yost in the village of Conger. Some time later his brother bought out Mr. Yost's interest in the firm and the concern became Sprenger Brothers. Two years after this his brother sold his share in the business to Christ Bangert, but eventually Mr. Sprenger bought the entire stock, and is now the sole owner and proprietor of the store. He carries a large assortment of dry goods and groceries and aims to give to all his customers satisfaction. That he is successful in his enterprise is evidenced by his increasing patronage and popularity. Ella Stiehl, a daughter of Henry and Caroline Stiehl, became his wife, and to them has been born one child, Lee.

**Levi Chandler Sweet**, one of the highly respected farmers of Carlson township, was born in Alleghany county, New York, on May 17, 1851. He is the son of Charles and Harriet A. (Lamphere) Sweet. The father, Charles, came west to La Crosse county, Wisconsin, in 1856. Here he farmed until the spring of 1863, when he came to Carlston township and took up as a homestead the land in section 32, where he lived until his death, on September 11, 1880. In addition to farming he was engaged, with his son, Levi C., in the farm implement business at Alden for some years, until 1878. Mrs. Harriet Sweet died March 18, 1911. Levi C., in the fall of 1873, bought a farm home of seventy-six acres in section 29, Carlston township. Mr. Sweet is chairman of the board of supervisors, of which he has been a member for eight years. He has been a member of the school board for thirty years. He has also been justice of the peace. He owns stock in the creamery at Alden. The Seventh Day Advent Church of Dodge Center numbers him as a member. September 16, 1876 Mr. Sweet was married in Carlston township at the home of the bride to Nettie Curtis, who was born in Verona, Oneida county, New York, January 4, 1856, daughter of Rev. D. P. Curtis and Cordelia A. Clark Curtis, the former of whom died August 15, 1897, and the latter August 4, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet are the parents of two children. Lucius was born October 30, 1883. He is a popular young man, is a member of the Wells Lodge, A. F. & A. M. and is employed as a buttermaker in that city. Belva was born November 12, 1884, and married E. Stockman, a grain and coal dealer of Alden.

**Gilbert Gulbrandson** was for many years a prominent figure in Albert Lea and Freeborn county, where his intelligent interest in public affairs and his upright character exerted a wholesome influence. He was born at Naess Aadalen, Norway July 17, 1841. He came to America with his parents, Endre and Marit Gulbrandson, in 1852, settled in Wisconsin, and after four



years moved to the portion of Minnesota territory which in time became the town of Hayward, and Freeborn county, where they settled. He enlisted in the Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served three years, then re-enlisted and served to the close of the war. He was wounded in the battle of Black River Bridge, being shot through both thighs. Gangrene resulted in one thigh, and Gilbert was pronounced by the head doctor of the hospital as dead and to be abandoned, but was saved by a young physician just out of school. He came home on a furlough lame and more dead than alive, but after two months returned to the South and, as stated before, was discharged with honor in 1865.

In 1869 he came to Albert Lea and engaged in the farm implement business, but being of a studious mind began quite soon to study law with Judge John A. Lovely, and was elected to the office of judge of the probate in 1871 and re-elected twice. In 1878 he established the City Bank of Albert Lea, that was later changed into a \$50,000 First National Bank, of which he became president. That institution is now a \$100,000 bank. He was married to Christine Anderson in 1875. Eight children were born to them, of whom, besides the widow, five are now living: Mrs. Dr. Rodli, Leif E., Rolph M. and Thor L. Gulbrandson, of this city, and Emma L. Wald, of Philadelphia. Gilbert Gulbrandson died February 19, 1900, leaving a record of which anyone might be proud. As scholar, public servant and business man he was honest and honorable. His library was said to be the best selected and largest of any, with the exception of professional men, in the city.

**Rev. James Doag Todd** was born in Chautauqua county, New York, November 22, 1826, son of Silas and Betsy Filley Todd. In 1843 he moved to Apple River, Ill., where he farmed until entering Beloit College as one of its first students in preparation for the ministry. On October 3, 1856, he married Susan S. Webster, of Apple River, Ill., from which union there were seven children, three girls and four boys: Cornelia E., James M., William E., David R., John R., Susan E. and Mary F. The two older boys became physicians, the two younger lawyers.

James D. Todd entered the Congregational ministry supplying churches at Plymouth, Richland Center and Johnstown, Wis., when he removed, in 1869, to Winnebago City, Minn., where he became pastor until 1871, when he organized and built the first Congregational Church at Granite Falls, Minn., taking a government claim in Yellow Medicine county at the same time. In 1875 he accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Wabasha, Minn., and in 1877 removed to Albert Lea, where, after service in the Congregational Church here he became

affiliated with the Presbyterian denomination, in which he remained until his retirement in 1898, after which time he confined his labors to supplying churches temporarily, as his health permitted, and in travel. He moved to Paola, Kan., in 1911, to make a permanent home.

**J. Q. Annis**, a well known patriot and old resident of Albert Lea, was born in Carroll, Chautauqua county, New York, on July 24, 1837. He spent his youth until sixteen years of age on a farm, and at the age of 20 moved to Jamestown, N. Y., where he learned the painters' trade, which he followed until the fourteenth day of April, 1861, at which time he enlisted for service in the Civil War. In December, 1863, he was discharged from the army for disability. The following year he was united in marriage to Minerva H. Fenton, niece of Governor Fenton, of New York. For some time after his discharge from the army Mr. Annis' health was poor, owing to exposure and hardships of military service, and in May, 1864, he removed with his wife to Oil Creek, Pa., in the hope that the change would prove beneficial. Here he engaged in an extensive cooperage business until 1871, when he removed to Ironton, Ohio, where he did a large contracting business in painting, largely for the railroads traversing that section. Mr. Annis, with his wife and family of three daughters and one son, came to Albert Lea in 1876, and for many years thereafter he conducted a successful business contracting painting and interior decorating. During his residence in Albert Lea he has been honored by being chosen to many offices of public trust, as well as having been selected to preside over all the fraternal orders of which he is a member. He was commander of Robson Post, G. A. R., three years and aid-de-camp of the department commander in 1894. He was city assessor three years and a member of the School Board two terms. The year following his arrival in Albert Lea he united with the Odd Fellow and Masonic orders by card, having become a member of both bodies before his departure from Ohio. In 1888 Mr. Annis was elected clerk of court for Freeborn county, which office he held continuously for twelve years. Since concluding his services in the latter capacity Mr. Annis has spent some time in real estate transactions and fruit cultivation in Arkansas, and latterly has served as city assessor for the past several terms. Mr. Annis enjoys the esteem and high regard of all the citizens of Freeborn county, and whether in his capacity as a public officer, or as a private citizen, he has alike demonstrated the possession of these sterling qualities which win confidence and retain friends.

**S. Otis Simonson**, oldest son of Ole O. Simonson and Susan A. (Gjellum), was born on a farm in the township of Hartland



about fourteen miles northwest of the city of Albert Lea, on June 8, 1867. His father, who was a very conscientious, painstaking, accurate and reliable man, and who held the office of Register of Deeds of Freeborn county at the time of his death on the twenty-first day of February, 1881, died when Mr. Simonson was but 13 years of age. He received his boyhood education in the country school near the farm, but when the family moved to Albert Lea, the county seat, where his father assumed the duties of Register of Deeds, he received a common school education in the city public schools. In the year 1882 he had a desire to learn the printing business, so he decided to use his spare hours after school, Saturdays, and during school vacation, to begin acquiring some knowledge of that trade. For some time he devoted this spare time with the "North Star," a weekly newspaper published at that time, and whose editor was J. C. Allerton. After concluding his school duties he accepted a position with the Albert Lea "Enterprise," published by M. Halvorsen, where he was employed for a year or more as an apprentice. He then accepted a position with the Freeborn County "Standard," published by H. G. Day, its present owner and proprietor, in whose employ he remained for over ten years, as an apprentice for some time and later as a newspaper and job printer. In 1901 he desired to go into business in a moderate way himself, so he purchased a half interest in the job printing business of McCulloch & Whitcomb (F. H. McCulloch and L. S. Whitcomb), buying the former's interest in that concern, and the firm name was then changed to Simonson & Whitcomb, who continued the job printing business exclusively until the year 1907, when they consolidated with the Evening "Tribune" and Semi-Weekly "Tribune," whose editor was J. P. Hurley, a daily and semi-weekly newspaper published in Albert Lea, thereby connecting their extensive job printing, bookbinding, and linotype business, when there was an incorporation made with a capital stock of \$30,000, under the incorporated name known as the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company, of which institution he was elected secretary. In the fall of 1910 the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Co. purchased the "Times-Enterprise," a weekly newspaper published in Albert Lea, the latter being a consolidation of the Freeborn County "Times" and the Albert Lea "Enterprise," being two of the best, oldest and leading newspapers of the county. The corporate name was then changed to the Albert Lea Publishing Company, with a capital stock of \$50,000, when he served as secretary of the company, until the election of officers on October 4, 1911, when he was elected as president of the company. In this concern there are thirty people employed. When the Spanish-American War



broke out he enlisted in Company I, 12th Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, which was an Albert Lea company, was mustered into service as a volunteer on May 5, 1898, at which time he was appointed second lieutenant of the company, and served as such during the hostilities, until the regiment was mustered out on November 5, 1898, receiving a certificate as to good ability, and service, health and physical condition at the time of being mustered out. In the year 1907 he bought a third interest in the Olson Manufacturing Company, in the manufacture of various kinds of hay tools, such as the "Advance" hay carriers, "Common Sense" hay slings, the "Advance" Litter Carriers, roller bearing pulleys, steel track, etc., and whose products are sought for on account of their simplicity, durability and satisfaction given to the farmers throughout the Northwest. He is a member of the Business Men's League and several other societies and organizations of the city of Albert Lea. On January 18, 1898, he was married to Anna Emelia Hanson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hanson, of Albert Lea. Four children were born to them, viz., Hazel Marion, Carmen Elizabeth, age 8; Arthus Marjory, age 6; Otis Alton, age 4; the first named dying in her infancy, and the others in good health, vim and vigor. His mother, Mrs. Susan A. Simonson, is comfortably living in the city. She has five children still living, viz., S. Otis, Mrs. L. C. Lane, of Kensal, North Dakota; Carl M. and Ida A., of this city, and Joseph A., of Genoa, Colo., and many pleasant reunions are held at the mother's home.

**Mrs. Susan A. Simonson** (Susan A. Gjellum) was born in Indre Sogn, Norway, June 5, 1843. When but six years of age she emigrated to this country with her parents, the voyage across the ocean, which was of thirteen weeks' duration, being made in a sailing vessel, steamers being unknown to ply the ocean at that early date. After reaching this country they located at Utica, Dane county, Wisconsin, which remained her home till she was twenty-one years of age, when she was married, August 3, 1864, to Ole O. Simonson. The young couple left the following month via ox team and covered wagon for Minnesota. Mr. Simonson obtained employment as clerk in the Frank Hall general store in Albert Lea but, being unable to obtain a house, Mrs. Simonson spent the winter with relatives in the country. The following spring they were able to rent a log house, which had served as the second postoffice in Albert Lea, and located about opposite where the Hotel Freeborn now stands. They resided here about two years, when they moved to their farm in Hartland township. In 1877 Mr. Simonson was elected register of deeds of Freeborn county, and the family again moved to the city. While serving his second term in that office he was suddenly stricken ill and,



after a brief illness of three days, passed away February 21, 1881, leaving the widow with six children, the eldest being but fifteen years of age. Two children preceded their father in death when they were very young. Mrs. Simonson has continued to make her home in Albert Lea ever since, though still retaining an interest in the farm in Hartland township; and of the children, Mrs. E. S. Gjellum, of Fowler, Colo., died in December, 1909; S. Otis, Carl M. and Ida A. reside in this city, Mrs. L. C. Lane in Kensal, N. D., and Joseph A. in Genoa, Colo.

**Burt May** was born October 14, 1878, at Forest City, Iowa. He received his grammar education at Forest City. After coming to Albert Lea he took a course in the public high school. In 1895 he went to Moline, Ill., and worked as apprentice with the Moline Evening "Mail." When the Albert Lea "Tribune" started, August 8, 1897, under R. N. Joselyn, he began as compositor and was foreman of the "Evening Tribune" and "Twice-a-Week Tribune" for nine years. He then accepted a like position with the Albert Lea "Enterprise," which was consolidated with the "Freeborn County Times" in 1905, of which he became assistant manager. In 1910 the "Times-Enterprise" company consolidated with the "Evening Tribune," and he became assistant manager of the mechanical department of the Albert Lea Publishing Company. In 1910 he was endorsed by the temperance element and ran for alderman of the third ward, being defeated by ten votes. He is an active member of the Masonic Western Star Lodge, No. 26. He was married November 17, 1909, to Adelaide Nesbett. Mrs. W. H. May, his mother, came to Forest City in her girlhood days. She, with her parents, walked from Chicago, carrying their household goods with an ox team, ferrying at Dubuque, Iowa. They arrived on the bank of Lime creek, where they erected a log house, being pioneers of Forest City several years before the city of Albert Lea was founded.

**Lesley Sherman Whitcomb**, journalist and business man, was born March 20, 1866, at Westfield, Vt., and removed with his parents to Edgerton, Wis., when a child. After a year they removed to Worth county, Iowa, where L. S. grew to manhood. He attended the rural schools of his neighborhood, the Northwood, Ia., schools, the Cedar Valley Seminary, at Osage, Ia., and Cornell College, at Mt. Vernon, Ia. Thus equipped, he taught school five terms in the rural schools of Worth county, Ia., and then took up printing, a profession in which, in one capacity or another, he has continued to engage. After working a short apprenticeship at the "Index" office in Northwood, Ia., he came to Albert Lea to engage in an exclusive job printing business in partnership with F. H. McCulloch, in August, 1890. One year later S. Otis Simonson, formerly of the "Freeborn County Stan-



dard'' force, succeeded Mr. McCulloch and the name of the firm was changed from McCulloch & Whitcomb to Simonson & Whitcomb. This partnership was continued successfully until July 1, 1907, when the Simonson & Whitcomb office and business was consolidated with that of Hurley & Co., publishers of the daily and semi-weekly "Tribune," and a corporation was formed of which Mr. Whitcomb was chosen treasurer and business manager. During August, 1910, this company and its plant and business was merged with the Times-Enterprise Publishing Company, publishers of the "Times-Enterprise," a weekly newspaper resulting from the merger of two Republican newspapers, the Albert Lea "Enterprise" and the "Freeborn County Times," and the new organization was chartered as the Albert Lea Publishing Company. Of this company Mr. Whitcomb became secretary and treasurer as well as business manager. The company does a general printing, publishing and blankbook business, as well as publishing the evening "Tribune" and the "Times-Enterprise." Mr. Whitcomb is a great believer in Albert Lea and is an enthusiastic booster of its business interests. He belongs to the Business Men's League, as well as to all the local Masonic bodies, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. The subject of this sketch was married June 20, 1894, to Marie Elvira Edwards, who died February 24, 1901, leaving two daughters, Marie L. and Ruth Elizabeth. Mr. Whitcomb was married July 24, 1902, to Maude Fenton Annis, a daughter of J. Q. Annis, of this city.

**Joseph P. Hurley**, journalist and man of affairs, was born in Syracuse, N. Y., January 10, 1874. He passed through the grade schools and graduated from the high school at Syracuse, afterward taking special studies for two years at the University of Syracuse. For two years he did reportorial and other work on newspapers at Syracuse. In 1895 he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the Unitype Company as traveling salesman. He remained in that employ until early in 1904, when he came to Albert Lea and purchased a half interest in the "Enterprise." Nine months later he sold this and purchased the daily "Tribune." He was editor and manager of the "Tribune" for two years and then it consolidated with Simonson & Whitcomb's job printery, the Simonson, Whitcomb & Hurley Company being organized. Mr. Hurley became president of that company and editor of the "Tribune." Three years later this company purchased the "Times-Enterprise," and the Albert Lea Publishing Company was organized with a capital of \$50,000. Of this Mr. Hurley became president as well as editor of the combined papers, retaining these positions until he sold his interest in the company October 1, 1911. Mr. Hurley has never sought



public position but has been prominently mentioned in connection with several important offices. He has worked for the good of Albert Lea, and has served on a number of important boards and committees. He has been an enthusiastic booster for the Business Men's League, and has done good service as a member of the board of trustees of the Albert Lea College for Women. He is a member of the Masonic body, the Knights of Pythias, the Elks, the Royal Arcanum, the United Commercial Travelers, the Modern Woodmen and the Maccabees. Mr. Hurley was married October 31, 1901, to Agnes Perl, the daughter of Hon. and Mrs. Peter Perl, of Decatur, Ill., in which city the marriage took place.

**William Granville Kellar** was the second son of William and Elizabeth Kellar, born in Grant county, Wisconsin, August 17, 1847, died at Albert Lea January 23, 1902. His parents were among the very first settlers in the vicinity of Albert Lea, locating one mile southwest of the court house September 27, 1856. He attended the common schools until 1865, when he entered Oberlin College in Ohio, and on returning was engaged for several years in surveying and engineering. He opened a real estate office in Albert Lea which he conducted until his death. For several years he was employed as field agent of the land department of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. He served several years as county surveyor and one term as mayor of the city of Albert Lea. On November 30, 1871, he was united in marriage to Ada Green, of Albert Lea, who died March 7, 1900. To this union one child was born—Mrs. H. A. Barck, of Albert Lea.

**Alexander McNeill** was born in the township of Richmond, thirty miles west of the city of Kingston, Canada, September 10, 1834. In 1847 he removed with his father's family to Milwaukee, Wis., where he learned the carpenter's trade. On August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, 28th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, being discharged from the army at Madison, Wis., August 22, 1865, having been engaged in six heavy battles and many minor engagements. He was married at Prairie du Chien, Wis., December 24, 1867, to Jennie Hamilton, which union has been blessed by one son, Willis M. McNeill, of Albert Lea. He settled in Albert Lea in the autumn of 1869 and has been engaged as a contractor ever since. He has been a prominent member of Robson Post, G. A. R., from its organization, and has always taken a profound personal interest in the physical and moral upbuilding of Albert Lea. He is noted for his integrity, and our beautiful court house, erected under his master hand, stands as a monument of his fidelity to public interests, for it is built upon honor, at a cost to the county far less than any of the estimates of the others who bid for its construction.



**Magnus Berglund**, fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. John Berglund, was born in Sweden September, 1864, and came with his parents to Freeborn county in 1868. He grew up on the farm, early learning to take part in the farm work. As time would permit he attended school in district 54, known as the Murtaugh school. He also went to high school at Albert Lea two terms, walking there three miles from his father's home. At twenty-one he became a member of the Swedish Baptist church and was an interested worker, being its first organist and for many years Sunday school superintendent. Upon leaving home he settled on a farm three miles due south of Albert Lea. He married Sigrid Johanna Nelson, of Freeborn county, in 1887, to which marriage three children were born. In the fall of 1891 he left the farm and entered the Baptist Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, Chicago, graduating in the spring of 1894. While at school he preached at DeKalb, Ill., and also built a new house of worship. Galesburg, Ill., was the next pastorate, but only for a year and four months. Then he came to Minnesota on account of the failing health of Mrs. Berglund, and to do missionary work on the new iron ranges for two years. His wife died during this time. Cokato, Minn., was the next pastorate, but only for a year and four months, but he completed while there a new church building. In 1899 he became the Sunday school missionary of the Swedish Baptists in Minnesota and Wisconsin. With the exception of a few months when he was financial secretary of Bethel Academy, he is still in this work, having, however, dropped Wisconsin. He has started several new schools and organized quite a number of new churches. He has also started three Bible wagons. For years he has been holding several responsible positions in his denomination, such as trustee and executive member of the Swedish Baptist Conference of Minnesota, trustee of Minnesota Baptist State Convention, trustee of Bethel Academy, school of the Swedish Conference of America, and trustee of the Mounds Park Sanitarium of St. Paul. His second wife is Ella Pauline Nordill, of Isanti county, and three children are born to this union. The present home is near Cambridge, Isanti county. J. LeRoy, the oldest son, lives in Montana.

**Christian Larsen**, a highly respected citizen of New Denmark, Albert Lea, was born in Denmark on January 10, 1846. His parents were Lars and Mary Anna (Swensen) Jorgensen, natives of Denmark, where they both died, the former on September 12, 1856, and the latter November 9, 1864. The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of his native land and he came to America during the month of September, 1864. After reaching this country Mr. Larsen located in Wisconsin, where he remained for a year and a half, after which he went to Illinois and later



to Iowa, but later returned to Wisconsin and remained in La-Crosse until November 30, 1870, at which time he came to Minnesota. Here he located in Riceland township, in this county, bought 40 acres of land in section 9, erected a house and good out-buildings, and engaged in farming. As prosperity afforded he added to his original possessions until he owned 150 acres, all located in the same township and in section 9. This land was broken, cultivated and developed by Mr. Larsen, and it thus became more valuable each year. Mr. Larsen carried on general diversified farming until May 15, 1893, when he sold his property, moved to Albert Lea, purchased three and one-half acres just out of the city limits, erected a fine house and good barn, and settled down to enjoy his well earned years of rest and retirement. He has been an independent voter and served in many of the prominent public offices in the township where he made his home during the active years of his life. He was elected to the office of town treasurer, which he held for four years; became supervisor of the town, serving for one year; served as chairman of the town board for eight years, and for many years he was a member of the school board. Among the various business interests with which Mr. Larsen has been associated are: Stockholder in the Lerdal Creamery, of which he was the president for two years; stockholder in the Clarks Grove Mercantile Co.; one of the directors of the Albert Lea State Bank, for one year, and now a stockholder in this bank and also in the Citizens National Bank, of Albert Lea; a stockholder in the Building & Loan Association of Albert Lea, and the owner of considerable city property. On December 29, 1869, Mr. Larsen married Mary Andersen, who was born in Denmark on October 22, 1851, daughter of Iver and Maren Madsen. She came to America with her parents in 1866 and to Freeborn county in 1870, locating in Bath township, where her father died on February 9, 1877, the mother dying March 22, 1907, in Albert Lea.

**Emil Nelson**, postmaster and prominent citizen, was born July 13, 1859, in Freeman township, Freeborn county, on the northeast quarter of section 23, township 101, range 21, taken as a homestead by his father, Lars, in 1856. He spent the first twenty-two years of his life on the farm in section 23, near Gordonsville, Minn. He attended common school at Gordonsville and the high school at Northwood, Iowa. He studied telegraphy at Gordonsville, a small station on the B. C. R. & N. Ry. (now C. R. I. & P.). His first position was as operator at Flandreau, S. D., March 10, 1883. After filling several positions as extra agent he was transferred to Albert Lea December 27, 1884, as operator and assistant to agent, which position he held until November 1, 1890, when he resigned and engaged in the stock and grain business at this



place and Gordonsville. He was elected and held the office of register of deeds from January 1, 1893, until January 1, 1897, and engaged in the real estate and mercantile business until 1904. He was appointed postmaster January 18, 1904, which position he still holds. He was assessor of Albert Lea from 1897 to 1901. He is a member of the Masonic order from the blue lodge to the shrine, and also belongs to Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, K. of P. He was married November 18, 1896, to Lora E. Higgins, daughter of William A. Higgins, and they have two bright children, D. Wyeth Nelson, born February 5, 1899, and Olive A. Nelson, born September 28, 1905. These children spent two years in Berlin, Germany, with their mother—1908 and 1909—Wyeth attending German school and their mother studying music.

**Lars Nelson**, early pioneer and member of the first board of supervisors of Freeman, was born in Norway and married Agnetta M. Johnson. After coming to America they located in Wisconsin, and about 1856 came to Freeborn county and located in Freeman township, entering 160 acres in section 23. There they broke and improved the land and remained until June 15, 1863, when they moved to Shell Rock township, locating on 160 acres of land in sections 32 and 33. There they continued to carry on general farming many years, developing and improving the land and erecting the necessary buildings. In 1886 they moved to Oregon, where they now make their home.

**Theodore Naeve**, whose name and that of his good wife, Dorathea, will be sacredly perpetuated in Albert Lea, in the designation given to the splendid new city hospital, had his part in the upbuilding of the commercial interests of Albert Lea, and lived a life which was an example of earnest endeavor and substantial, manly character. Theodore Naeve was born in Barga, Holstein, Germany, Oct. 8, 1844, and came to America after the Civil War, in 1865, securing employment as clerk in a store in Dubuque, Iowa. Later he went to Waterloo and engaged in selling goods for five years, part of the time with Charles Soth as a partner. About 1873 he came to Albert Lea, and two years later married Dorathea Soth, a sister of his partner. As head of the business firm of Naeve & Soth he was remarkably successful. He transacted a money lending business for himself and others, and managed this difficult business to the satisfaction of loaner and borrower. In 1889 he built the large and splendid residence which in 1911 was moved away to make way for the hospital which bears his name. Mr. Naeve was a singularly quiet and reserved man, and was ever kind, courteous and pleasant to all. He was notably conscientious, exemplary in all his habits, just, methodical, and prompt in his dealings. As a husband, friend and citizen he was held in the highest esteem. He was honest, just and true, and



his death was a real loss to the community. He died at his home, September 12, 1891, very suddenly, having been in his accustomed health the day previous.

**Mrs. Dorathea Naeve** was one of those women whose name will ever be held in loving remembrance in Albert Lea, and the sufferers whose hours of illness are made comfortable in the splendid new Naeve Hospital, which stands on the site of her residence, will bless the generous intention which made this institution possible. She was born at Domitz, Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany, July 25, 1841, oldest child of Johann and Henrietta Soth. In the family was a sister, Bertha, two years younger, and a brother, Charles, five years younger than Dorathea. The whole family came to America in 1849 and settled in Watertown, Wis., where soon afterward the parents died of cholera within a week of each other. About a year later Bertha was drowned. Charles and Dorathea, thus bereaved, for some time boarded out, and later were taken and reared by their uncle, Adolph Krueger, who lived on a farm near Watertown. At fourteen Dorathea had finished her schooling, and a few years later went to Milwaukee, where she worked for some time. In 1869 her brother, Charles, went into the saddlery business in Waterloo, Iowa, and Dorathea went there to keep house for him. In 1873 they came to Albert Lea, and here Dorathea continued to keep house for her brother, who had formed a business partnership with Theodore Naeve, who opened a general store. On May 27, 1875, Dorathea Soth was married to Theodore Naeve. The wedding took place at the home of relatives in Eau Claire, Wis. Several years later Mr. and Mrs. Naeve built a house on the corner of Water street and West avenue, where they lived until 1889, when they moved to their new home on Fountain street. In 1890, having no children of their own, they adopted a daughter, Edith, who became a true daughter in every respect. After the death of Theodore Naeve, September 12, 1891, Mrs. Naeve continued to live in Albert Lea until the fall of 1906, when she moved to Minneapolis in order to give her daughter the benefits of a University education. On May 4, 1908, Dorathea Naeve died in Minneapolis as the result of an accident. She was buried in her vault in Albert Lea cemetery on May 7, 1908. Mrs. Naeve had no opportunity for securing an education so far as schooling was concerned, but she was widely read and spent much time in travel. She had for several years spoken of bestowing her Albert Lea home, where she had lived seventeen years, upon the city for the purpose of an improved hospital. Her wish was carried out, after her death, by her brother, Charles Soth, and the gift was accepted.

**Charles Hazen Farnsworth.** Occasionally there is a community fortunate enough to possess a man acknowledged to be of



sound sense, good judgment, and enthusiasm in the promotion of the community interests, who combines with these qualities the ability to clothe his thoughts in forceful prose, both written and spoken, and who is fearless in his advocacy of his firm conviction of the right, and in his denunciation of those things which he believes to be wrong. Albert Lea has such a man in Charles H. Farnsworth. As an earnest advocate, Mr. Farnsworth is known as a friend of education. Himself a successful teacher, he believes in the value of appropriate education as the solution of some of the most difficult problems which confront the American people today; and to the end that the cause of proper education may be advanced, Mr. Farnsworth uses his pen, his voice and his influence. Not alone, however, as an advocate of scholarship is Mr. Farnsworth known, his reputation as a gallant soldier being one of his proudest assets. Not only did he show distinguished bravery on the field, but since the great army was disbanded he has proven himself ever the friend of the old soldier, interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the veteran, and a leader in instilling patriotism in the younger generations. Charles H. Farnsworth was born in Beekmantown, Clinton county, New York, December 1, 1838, son of Samuel H. and Cynthia (Hazen) Farnsworth. He received his early education in the district schools of his native county, and in 1856 came west to Chicago, going thence to Portage City, Wis. For some time he traveled in various places, observing the local customs and manners, and in the interim teaching two terms in a school near Madison, Wis. This experience showed him the need of advanced education to assist in the activities of life. Accordingly, enriched in knowledge by the district and select schools, as well as by his experience at traveling and teaching, he returned to his home state and entered the New York State Normal College at Albany, N. Y., graduating in 1860. Then he taught school again, studying for the legal profession. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in February, 1862, as a private in the 96th New York Volunteer Infantry, being immediately appointed regimental quartermaster sergeant. Stephen Moffitt, afterward general, was colonel of this regiment. With this command, Mr. Farnsworth saw service throughout the Peninsular campaign under General McClellan. Becoming disabled by disease, he was discharged in 1862. He returned home and recovered from his illness sufficiently to teach two terms in the North ward school, in Plattsburg, N. Y. In 1863 he again responded to his country's call and entered the 16th New York Volunteer Cavalry as lieutenant in Company G. By promotion he was later transferred to Company K in the same regiment, being mustered out at the close of the war and given the rank of captain. With the Sixteenth he saw service on the



skirmishing line throughout the campaign of the Wilderness. He commanded the troop next to that of Captain Dougherty, who pursued and captured Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln. Captain Farnsworth himself was on duty at the trial of the persons charged with conspiracy in connection with Lincoln's death. At the end of his service he returned to Plattsburg and was appointed a keeper at Dannemora prison. There he served three years. At the end of that time he resigned and came west with his father's family, locating in Lancaster, Grant county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits a few years with his father. Then he moved to Dubuque, Iowa, and became a conductor for the C. D. & M. railway. Two years later he moved to Burlington, Ia., and engaged as express messenger for the American Express Company. In 1883 he took up his residence in Albert Lea, coming here as an express agent and remaining with the express company about ten years. While still in that employ he was instrumental in having a Bell telephone system installed here, and became its manager. Then he secured a franchise and established an electric light plant. Since that time he has devoted much of his time to real estate and to public service. He was one of the prime movers in securing the adoption of the present county fair system in Freeborn county, and is a member of the city charter commission. He has taken an active part in many public discussions, and has been a liberal contributor to the press. In this capacity he became a close personal friend of Robert Burdette, formerly of the Burlington "Hawkeye," now a clergyman in California. While it is not generally known by his present friends, Mr. Farnsworth has a rare poetic gift, and in his earlier life wrote some very beautiful poems, which he has often been urged to publish in book form. Mr. Farnsworth is a loyal member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., for which he is patriotic instructor. It is worthy of note that by the approval of the general commander, Captain Farnsworth is entitled to wear the Cross of L. A. (Lincoln's Avenger). Among other good works Mr. Farnsworth labored hard for the establishment of the Ramsey School, and it was at his suggestion that it received its name. The Farnsworth family reside at 1019 St. Joseph street. The subject of this sketch has been a staunch Republican through life. He was married July 4, 1863, at Grand Isle, Vermont, to Frances I. Rice, daughter of Franklin E. and Sarah (Paige) Rice, natives of Vermont, the former of whom died August 31, 1883, and the latter December 15, 1845. The father was a dentist. Mrs. Farnsworth received her education in the New Hampton Institute at Fairfax, Vt., and until her marriage was a teacher giving instruction in the common branches and in music and French. This union has been blessed with three children. Two are living: Rolla



S., an attorney practicing in Ogden, Utah, and Mary C., who is proofreader in the office of the Albert Lea Publishing Company, at Albert Lea. Addie was born May 13, 1864, and died March 3, 1865. The parents of Charles H. Farnsworth were Samuel H. Farnsworth, born March 3, 1813, and Cynthia Hazen Farnsworth, born November 5, 1817, both natives of Clinton county, New York. The father was a merchant a part of his life, but devoted the greater part of his career to agricultural operations. He was an honored citizen of his county and held positions of trust and honor, including the superintendency of the schools of Clinton county, New York. About 1870 he brought his family to Lancaster, Grant county, Wisconsin, but still later went to Cherokee, Ia., and spent his declining years with his daughter, Mrs. Lillian Scribner. He died September 10, 1883, and his wife passed away May 19, 1878. Both are laid to rest at Lancaster, Wis. They were the parents of eight children: Charles Hazen lives in Albert Lea, Martha died November 14, 1840, Cynthia Z. married Charles Bushnell and they live at Condon, Ore., Sarah P. died November 4, 1858, George P. died December 15, 1902; he was a veteran of the Civil War; Mary T. married John Studebaker and they live in Los Angeles, Cal.; Lillian Jane married Roderick Scribner and they live at Cherokee, Ia.; Nathan lives at Bakersfield, Cal.; his wife, Fannie Hornibrook, died May 25, 1903. Samuel Farnsworth was the son of Philip and Puah (Parsons) Farnsworth. Philip Farnsworth, grandfather of C. H. Farnsworth, served with the American forces of artillery at the battle of Plattsburg, N. Y., in the War of 1812. Cynthia Hazen Farnsworth was the daughter of Charles Hazen, her mother's maiden name being Emery. The ancestors of the Farnsworth family in America can be traced to three brothers who emigrated to Connecticut from England before the Revolutionary War, there being records of the birth of Dr. Farnsworth in Connecticut in 1715.

**Nels Johnson**, who was the first person of Swedish birth to settle in Mansfield, was born in Sweden March 25, 1840, and 29 years later came to Freeborn county and settled in Mansfield. He came to the United States in 1868 and worked one year near Des Moines, Ia., with a party of his countrymen. On coming to Freeborn county he located on section 20, in Mansfield, and has ever since carried on extensive farming operations there, both as a general farmer and also as a stock raiser. He erected barns and other buildings and has since made additions thereto, until he now has an excellently furnished home place and a well equipped farm of 480 acres. When he first came to this farm he planted many trees, and his reward today is a beautiful grove of willows and other trees near his house. One of the recently fallen trees is from a stump more than three feet in diameter, and this grew



from a twig planted by the subject of this biography when he was first on the land. Religiously Mr. Johnson is affiliated with the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican of the progressive type. He has always borne his share of the public work but has continued to refuse public office. In October, 1862, he married Pernilla Person, a native of Sweden, who died in March, 1907. To this union were born three children, only one of whom, Hanna, wife of Ole Nelson, of Mansfield, is now living. He later adopted his nephew, Henry, who is now a successful farmer in Mansfield. On October 3, 1909, the subject of this biography married Hanna Simonson, a native of Sweden. When a visitor today spends an hour at this home and sees the trees that have been planted, the land that has been drained, cleared and improved, he realizes what an immense task was performed by Mr. Johnson and those other men who came here at an early day and made the way for our comforts and advantages of today.

**Guttron O. Trytten**, who came from Norway to the United States when fifteen years of age, was born May 3, 1850, the son of Ole O. and Annie O. (Honsey) Trytten. The subject of this biography settled first in the township of Bath, Freeborn county, and lived there till 1872, when he, with his parents, moved to Iowa and bought land in Winnebago county. He acquired land on his own responsibility and lived in Winnebago county until 1901, when he sold his farm there and came to his present home on section 32, township of Mansfield, and bought 160 acres of land. He here erected a comfortable dwelling, good barns, sheds and all necessary buildings. He has followed general and dairy farming, and that he has done so successfully is evident from the general view of his farm as well as from general inspection. Annie O. Sorbo, of Silver Lake, became his wife on November 26, 1874, and this union has been blessed with nine children, Oscar Alexander, Gustina, Annie Sophia, Ole, Clara Mary, Edwin Seuzrin, Ida Josephine, Julia and Alfred. Mr. Trytten is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he supports the principles of the Republican party. He has been director of school district 41 three years, was six years chairman of the board of supervisors of Norway township, Winnebago county, Iowa, and president of the Winnebago County Stock Company five years. He is stockholder in the Scarville Farmers' Elevator Company and is interested in many other similar enterprises. Mr. Trytten's present high place in his community and his personal success have been won by dint of hard work and his unfailing hard common sense, which will continue to be a service to his friends and his community as well as in advancing his own interests.

**Isaac Larson**, whose well tilled farm and comfortable home on section 32, Mansfield, are notable marks of prosperity in this



township, is a native of Denmark and was born October 2, 1860, the son of Lars and Katrina Nelson. Not until he was 20 years of age, in 1880, did he leave his native land for the United States. He settled first in Lake Mills, Iowa, where he worked at common labor for six years. He then bought a creamery, which he operated three years and later sold out to the farmers of the locality, after which he came to Mansfield and bought his present home farm of 160 acres. By tiling and making many other improvements he has made this into one of the most valuable farms of the township. On November 13, 1889, he married Hilda Aleta Peterson, of Lake Mills, and they now have a family of nine children. The children are Alfred, Selmer, Ida, Melvin, Wilford, Harold, Alma, Katerina and Margaret. Though Mr. Larson has been a very hard worker for himself and his family, he has always found time to serve the public with the same success which has attended his private endeavors. He is an active member and worker in the Lime Creek Lutheran church. In politics he is with the Republican party. In school district 41 he has been a member of the board fourteen years; he has been supervisor of the town eight years; he was president of the Scarville Creamery four years, and director of the Emmons Telephone Company four years. Mr. Larson is a man who, though born in a foreign land, came here and in a comparatively short time has made himself one of the leading men of the community and a man as well liked as he is respected for his ability to overcome difficulties and bring success to his endeavors whether for his own personal or for public benefit. He is president of the Farmers Elevator Company, of Scarville, and a stockholder in both the Lake Mills, Ia., and Emmons, Minn., lumber yards.

**W. L. Palmer, M. D.**, one of the foremost physicians and surgeons of Freeborn county, was born in this county, having first seen the light of day in Glenville, September 22, 1867, son of Rev. Daniel and Mary (Buck) Palmer. He received his common school education in Glenville, and graduated from the Albert Lea high school in 1885. Upon finishing his high school course he taught in the country two years and then went to Monticello, Wis., where he conducted a milling business for four years. Then he entered the Rush Medical College at Chicago, in 1893, graduating three years later. After receiving the necessary hospital practice he located in Glenville, where he practiced some ten years. coming in 1906 to Albert Lea, where he has built up a large practice. He has taken post-graduate courses in the New York Polytechnic and in Chicago institutions, and has kept well abreast of the most modern trend of medical progress, his library being unusually full and complete. Dr. Palmer owns a pleasant home at 401 Fountain street and his office is over the Freeborn



County State Bank. He belongs to the county, state and national medical associations and also to the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. The subject of this sketch was married June 27, 1891, to Ida M. Trow, daughter of A. C. and Arinda (Wiggins) Trow, and they have one son, Foster C. Rev. Daniel Palmer is mentioned in several places in this history. He and his wife, Mary Buck Palmer, were natives of New York state and came to Minnesota in 1863, Rev. Palmer being sent here as a clergyman of the Baptist denomination. Rev. Palmer died in Glenville in 1872 and his wife lived until 1887.

**Fred H. Mallory**, the efficient manager of the Broadway Theater, and owner of a dray and transfer line, is a native of Albert Lea, born February 9, 1871, son of Z. K. and Mary Mallory, natives of New York state. The parents came to Wisconsin in an early day and to Freeborn county in 1869. After farming two years, Z. K. engaged in the fuel and dray business in Albert Lea, in which he continued until his death, in 1903, serving also for a time as rural mail carrier. Mrs. Mary Mallory still lives in Albert Lea. The subject of this sketch attended the graded schools of Albert Lea and graduated from the high school in 1887. Leaving high school, he attended the Albert Lea Business College, where he took a course in shorthand and typewriting. He spent two years in Iowa after leaving the college, and then returned to Albert Lea and went into business with his father. In 1903, after his father's death, he sold out the fuel business, but continued in the dray and transfer business. His business is at present in a flourishing condition. In the year 1902 Mr. Mallory was married to Julia A. Niles. She died in December, 1906. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the Elks and K. of P. lodges, but has never aspired to the holding of any public office.

**Oscar Subby**, the efficient and courageous sheriff of Freeborn county, was born in Denmark, February 14, 1875, son of N. P. and Christine (Hansen) Subby, who came to America in 1880, and took up their residence in Albert Lea, where they now live. The subject of this sketch attended the public schools, and later engaged in the meat business four years. Then he joined the police force and did excellent service until his election as sheriff in 1905. Since then he has been re-elected three times, and has made a splendid officer, feared of evildoers and admired and respected by all law-abiding citizens of the county. Mr. Subby was married December 30, 1903, to Lillian Jones, and one child, Dor O., has been born. Mrs. Subby also has two children by a former marriage, Nellie and Harry Jones. Sheriff Subby is a Republican in politics. He is a member of Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E.; member of the Freeborn County Game Pro-



TECTIVE Association; member of the Business Men's League; member of the Albert Lea Fire Department; vice-president of State Sheriffs' Association; member of Albert Lea Gun Club; member of Danish Brotherhood (Dannebrog Lodge, No. 75), and has been secretary of the Freeborn County Central Republican Club since 1908.

**George P. Lattin**, educator, agriculturist and man of affairs, has taken an active part in the modern life of Freeborn county. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors of Freeborn town one year and town clerk eight years. He was county commissioner in Freeborn county from 1896 to 1901 and county superintendent of schools from January, 1901, to January, 1909, doing excellent service in all these several capacities. He has also been connected with the school board of Albert Lea, and is one of the trustees of the Albert Lea College for Women, at Albert Lea. In a business way he is connected with the People's Building & Loan Association of Albert Lea, the First State Bank of Freeborn, and the Citizens' National Bank of Albert Lea. Fraternally he associated with the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America, and his religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church. George P. Lattin was born in Fox Lake, Wis., March 25, 1859, son of Richmond E. and Martha (Calkins) Lattin. He graduated from the public schools and spent one year at college in Fox Lake, Wis. He came to Minnesota in 1878, locating at Freeborn. He taught in a rural school, and afterward became principal of the semi-graded school at Freeborn village winters and farmed during the summer months. In 1880 he purchased a farm in Faribault county, near Winnebago City, but later sold that and purchased another in Freeborn county, near Freeborn village, which he now operates. He conducted a general store in Freeborn village twelve years. Mr. Lattin was married November 2, 1882, to Nettie E. Scott. Earl, an adopted son and only child, died in November, 1897, at the age of nine years.

**Victor Gillrup** is one of the leading citizens of Freeborn county, his ability, his force of character and uprightness of principles having won for him the esteem, respect and admiration of all with whom he comes in contact. Although a man of wide interests and many duties he is affable and approachable, and always willing to give assistance and encouragement to anything which tends toward the progress of the community. He was registrar of deeds of Freeborn county from 1884 to 1889; has been mayor, president of the council and alderman of Albert Lea; has done good service on the State Board of Equalization; was chairman of the Republican County Committee four years; was postmaster at Albert Lea four years; has served as president



and member of the Albert Lea Board of Education; and is director and president of the Albert Lea Building & Loan Association. He is a member of the G. A. R. and the A. F. & A. M. Mr. Gillrup was born in Denmark, May 29, 1840, and graduated from the high school there. He came to America December 10, 1862, enlisted in Co. G, 1st N. Y. Vol. Engineers, and served to the end of the Civil War. He located in Watertown, Wis., about August 1, 1865, and reached Albert Lea November 27, 1868. He started a general store at Shell Rock City, now Glenville, in the fall of 1870, and remained there until January 1, 1884, when he came to Albert Lea, having in the fall of 1883 been elected registrar of deeds. Since then he has made his home in Albert Lea. He was married July 29, 1872, to Lillie I. Carter, and has four living children: Harriet G. Edwards, of Acapulco, Mexico; Harry S. and Walter, at Albert Lea; and Genevieve in San Diego, Calif.

**D. K. Stacy**, for many years city justice of Albert Lea, was born in Columbus, Warren county, Penn., November 16, 1842, son of Edwin Clark and Elizabeth D. (Heath) Stacy, the pioneers. The family moved to Minnesota when D. K. was fourteen years old, and here he spent his boyhood, first in Geneva and then in Albert Lea. He was the first to take mail into the village of Geneva, carrying it on his back. In February, 1862, he enlisted in Co. C., Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served in the Indian campaign and in the South, receiving several promotions. He was mustered out in October, 1865. Since then he has continued to make his home in Albert Lea. He has been postmaster several terms, and from 1870 to 1874 was deputy sheriff. He belongs to the Masons and the G. A. R. His services as a starter at the state fair for many years have been highly appreciated. The subject of this sketch married Lelia G. Moon, and this union has been blessed with three children.

**Eugene H. Brown**, popular druggist of Albert Lea, comes of one of the pioneer families, his parents and paternal grandparents having come to Minnesota during territorial days. He was born in Minneiska, Minn., April 5, 1869, and as a boy attended the public schools. Then he entered the Chicago College of Pharmacy, a department of the Illinois State University, and thus equipped spent some time as employe in various retail drug stores in Chicago, Ill., Moorhead, Minn., and Superior, Wis. Afterward he was chemist in wholesale drug houses in Duluth, Minn., and Minneapolis, Minn. He purchased his present store in November, 1906. Being a keen student of current events, he has joined the Fortnightly Club, of Albert Lea, and was president of that organization in 1909 and 1910. He was married



July 23, 1895, to Minna R. Adams, who has taken an active part in church and charitable work.

**David R. P. Hibbs**, now deceased, veteran of the Civil War, and esteemed citizen of Albert Lea, was a typical American gentleman, descended from a famous revolutionary officer, and himself one of the members of the heroic Loyal Legion. He was born in Hulmeville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1838, son of Jacob and Sarah Ann (Worstall) Hibbs. He was reared on a Pennsylvania farm, attended such schools as his neighborhood afforded, and then took courses at the Millersville Normal School, Millersville, Penn., and at the Attleborough Academy at Attleborough, Penn. He taught public school a while and was also assistant teacher in Attleborough Academy while preparing for college. His educational career was cut short by the gathering war clouds, and the news of the battle of Bull Run in July, 1861. Soon afterward he began recruiting for Co. F., 104th Penn. Vol. Inf., was commissioned first lieutenant, and mustered into service September 12, 1861. He commanded his company at the battle of Fair Oaks and during the Seven Days' Battles. For sixteen months he was adjutant, and for some time he served in South Carolina as acting assistant adjutant general of Hart's Brigade. After being mustered out October 1, 1864, he entered the Frankford Arsenal, at Philadelphia, and was in charge of the department for preparing ammunition until the close of the war. Soon afterward he returned home and in 1865 married Anna C. Vandegrift. He farmed three years and studied law for a time, coming to Albert Lea in 1872. In 1874 he was admitted to the bar, opened a law office, and practiced until 1876. Centennial year he entered into partnership with Horatio D. Brown in the banking business, the firm being known as H. D. Brown & Co. In 1892, when the Albert Lea National Bank was organized, he became its vice-president and in 1901 assumed the presidency. In 1902 at the organization of the Albert Lea State Bank he became its president, but in 1909 retired to the vice-presidency, a position he still retained at his death. Mr. Hibbs was always interested in educational affairs, and served as a member of various school boards in Pennsylvania and in Albert Lea for some twenty-six years. He owned 280 acres of land in Albert Lea and Freeman townships, which he conducted in a successful manner, making a specialty of breeding to Holstein-Friesian cattle. Mr. Hibbs was a prominent member of Robson Post, No. 5, G. A. R. To his union with Anna C. Vandegrift three children were born. Frank W. graduated from the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, and is now engaged in constructing sub-marines for the Electric Boat Co., at Seattle, Wash. Anna is now Mrs. D. C. Armstrong, of Albert Lea. Alice H., wife of Dr. O. A. Burton,



lives in Sarasota, Fla. Mr. Hibbs died August 24, 1911, at a hospital in Minneapolis. His death was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. His life-long friend, Dr. A. C. Wedge, followed him to the grave a few months later, one of the last labors of the doctor's being to prepare a loving tribute to Mr. Hibbs for publication by the Loyal Legion. The parents of David R. P. Hibbs were Jacob Hibbs and Sarah A. Worstall Hibbs, both natives of Bucks county, Penn., where was spent the span of their years. The great grandfather of David R. P. Hibbs, Edward Heston, was a lieutenant colonel of a Pennsylvania regiment during the Revolution, was one of the noted heroes of that conflict, and afterward rose high in official life in the Keystone state.

**Harwood G. Day**, the dean of Freeborn county journalism, has edited the Freeborn County Standard since 1883, and has made that paper not only a powerful organ in the county but also in the state. He has taken an active part in every public movement, and few indeed are the committees for the upbuilding of the city or county on which he has not served. An enumeration of the offices he has held, the committees he has headed and the business concerns he has assisted in starting would fill several pages. He was born in Jericho, Vt., July 15, 1844, son of Jonas Galusha and Betsey Washburn (Stroud) Day: was educated in the common and select schools of Attica, Wis., and Evansville (Wis.) Seminary; read law in the office of Judge James Knowlton, of Chicago, Ill., completed his law courses in an office at Webster City, Iowa, and was there admitted to the bar May 18, 1868. Thus equipped he engaged in the practice of law at Estherville, Iowa, from 1868 to 1878, and at Lanesboro, Minn., from 1878 to 1883, engineering some important railroad deals in connection with the Southern Minnesota. In the meantime he had enlisted as a private in the Civil War, and was detailed to act as clerk in the assistant quartermaster's department in the Army of the Cumberland. In 1870 and 1871 he was a member of the lower house of the Iowa legislature, and for ten years he served as county attorney of Emmet county, Iowa. It was with this record that he came to Albert Lea in 1883 and assumed control of the Freeborn County Standard, established in 1857. In this capacity the scope of his influence cannot be measured. During the nearly thirty years of his residence here he has fearlessly and staunchly stood by his convictions, and his paper, which has a wide circulation, represents the sane, law abiding sentiment of the substantial people of Freeborn county. Mr. Day has served the Democratic party in various important positions, and is a close personal friend of many of the Democratic leaders. He is also an influential member of the Minne-



sota Editorial Association. His fraternal affiliation has been chiefly with the Masonic body. The subject of this sketch was married at Blue Earth, Minn., May 22, 1871, to Mary Howland, who has proved a most able and sympathetic helpmeet. This union has been blessed with the following children: Carlyle Harwood Day, Mary Pearl Day and Howland Carroll Day. Mary Pearl Day was born March 6, 1874, at Estherville, Iowa, educated at the Albert Lea high school and Albert Lea College, and was married at Albert Lea December 28, 1896, to Carl E. Day, of New York city, which is his headquarters as member of a large manufacturing company. They have two children: Mary Dorothy and Carl E. H. Day.

**Carlyle Harwood Day** was born at Estherville, Iowa, October 10, 1872, graduated from the Albert Lea high school, married Marguerita Harvey Dwight at Albert Lea June 20, 1900, was associate editor of the Standard ten years, served as first lieutenant in Co. I., 12th Minn. Vol. Inf. during the Spanish-American war, and was deputy state fire marshal at St. Paul, and member of the late Gov. John A. Johnson's "Kitchen Cabinet." He has since been manager of an extensive real estate business at Omaha and Chicago. They have three children: Dwight Harvey, Elinor Harwood and Priscilla H. Day.

**Howland Carroll Day**, who is associated with his father in the editing and publishing of the Freeborn County Standard, was born in Albert Lea April 8, 1888, son of Harwood G. and Mary (Howland) Day. He attended the Albert Lea schools, graduated from the Albert Lea high school in 1907 and at once took up work with his father. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and is one of Albert Lea's popular young men.

**A. J. D. Haupt, D. D.**, clergyman, author, educator and man of affairs, has been in the county too short a time to have taken a part in its past history, but his work is already having its influence on the people of Albert Lea and vicinity. Dr. Haupt comes of a distinguished family, his father, General Herman Haupt, having not only been a distinguished officer in the Civil War, but also an engineer of international reputation, some of the most difficult tunneling and construction work in the United States having been accomplished under his direction. He was also a professor of higher mathematics in Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Penn., for many years. A. J. D. Haupt was reared in a home where the influences were those of refinement and beauty. In 1882 he graduated with high honors from the University of Pennsylvania, and the following year came to Minnesota and started his pastorate of the Memorial English Lutheran church, in West Sixth street, St. Paul. In this relation he continued for over a quarter of a century, starting with a congre-



gation of six members, and leaving a large congregation well established as one of the leading churches of the city. When he first came to St. Paul he served as private tutor in the University. Having been a teacher in free hand and mechanical drawing free night classes, Rev. Haupt has utilized this talent in his church work, and several churches still standing are a monument to his skill as an architect. While pastor at St. Paul he was appointed in 1906 by Gov. John A. Johnson, along with Justice E. A. Jaggard, a state commissioner to the National Diverce Congress. As one result of this appointment the Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, Penn., in which his father served as a professor in 1837-39, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in June, 1907. After serving as divorce commissioner for the state, the people of Pittsburgh, Penn., made insistent demands that he begin the work of the Inner Mission in that city. Seeing the field for abundant results, Dr. Haupt accepted the call, and during his three years in Pittsburgh made a special study of the causes and prevention of crime. The work was vastly important, but after three years' strenuous work Mrs. Haupt's health broke down, and the doctors ordered her back to Minnesota. Consequently in the fall of 1910 Dr. Haupt accepted the pastorate of the Salem Lutheran church, of Albert Lea. He has done much toward upbuilding this church and has made an especial effort in behalf of the young people. Dr. Haupt is the author of books and articles on the life, work and career of his father, as well as upon various historical subjects, especially along the lines relating to the growth of the English Lutheran church in America. He himself has had a part in the making of history, being one of the pioneers in the English Lutheran pastorate in the Northwest.

**Andrew J. Luther** was born in Jefferson county, New York, August 8, 1837, moved to Wisconsin in 1856 and came to Minnesota in 1857. He located on a farm in Bancroft township, this county, and farmed until 1898, when he retired and moved to the city. He married Florence Hamilton and has two children. February 24, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, 5th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until mustered out, being wounded in the right thigh at Fort Ridgely.

**Philip Herman** was born in Germany May 11, 1828. He came to America in 1854 and to Freeman township in 1857, taking land and farming until 1901, when he retired and moved to Glenville. He died January 28, 1908, and his wife died April 7, 1909. Of their children nine are living and two are dead.

**Henry N. Ostrander** was born in New York state in 1824, and as an infant was taken to Canada. While still a boy he was taken back to New York by his father and on November 22, 1846,



married Sarah A. Smith. In June, 1849, they located in Wisconsin, and June 12, 1859, Mr. Ostrander staked out a claim in section 26, Bancroft township, this county. He served in town and school office and was county commissioner some five years. He had eight children. Henry N. Ostrander died in 1899, and his wife in 1905.

**C. N. Ostrander**, of Alden, the firefighter, was born in Clinton county, New York, and lived with his parents as an infant in Wisconsin, before coming with them to Bancroft township in 1859. He was reared on the home farm and also worked on the railroad. In 1877 he came to Alden, and has since been engaged in the jewelry, machine and wagon business. He has been school director, was engineer of the water works fourteen years and has been chief of the fire department many years. In 1873 he married Jennie Comstock, and has three daughters, Mabel, Leona and Ruby.

**Simon Strauss** is a native of the grand duchy Hessen, Germany, where he attended the folkschool. At the age of thirteen he entered the Gymnasium at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and after graduating, took employment as correspondent in a bank. In the year 1876 he came to America and located in Iowa. Two years later, in September, 1878, he came to Albert Lea, and opened a clothing store. In this business he engaged for twenty-nine years. Then he retired in fairly comfortable circumstances. He was one of the organizers of the Albert Lea National Bank and of the Albert Lea State Bank, and is now one of the principal stockholders in the First National Bank of Albert Lea.

**Mrs. Ellen Thompson.** Ellen Gascoyne was born January 8, 1830, at Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire, England. She was married to William Thompson in 1851 and came to America with her husband four years later, locating at Burlington, Wis. In 1858 they moved onto a farm a few miles east of Albert Lea and lived there until Mr. Thompson enlisted in the army. He served as a corporal in Company C of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, was severely wounded at Corinth and died at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., August 25, 1863. Mrs. Thompson displayed the characteristic courage of the pioneers and she was able to fight prairie fires, ward off Indians and endure all the hardships of those early days with remarkable bravery. She was a woman of great strength of character and her life has been marked by the greatest kindness and most unselfish devotion to the welfare of others. Though she frequently revisited England, she made her home in Albert Lea and died there February 3, 1908.

**Peter P. Overgaard**, a well known and respected farmer, was born in Riceland township January 19, 1869. His parents, Peter and Susan Overgaard, were natives of Norway and crossed the



briny deep to make a home for themselves in a new and strange country in the forties. They first settled in Wisconsin and remained there for about ten years, after which they came to Freeborn county and located in Riceland township, where the father was one of the early settlers. He took a claim of about 200 acres and did general farming until his death in 1890, when his son, the subject of this sketch, assumed the responsibility of running the farm and caring for his mother. Peter P. Overgard attended the common schools of Riceland and spent one term at the Luther Academy, Albert Lea, but his father's death ended further pursuance of his studies. He later purchased the old homestead and has since made numerous improvements and here pursues general and dairy farming. He raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. Mr. Overgard was married to Caroline Winjum, daughter of Ole K. Winjum, of Albert Lea, in 1896, and six children have come to bless their home: Vivian, Pearl, Peter, Raymond, Alyda and Henry, who are all at home. In politics Mr. Overgard votes with the Republican party and he is a member of the Lutheran church. That he has the regard and confidence of the community is evidenced by the length of time he has served in different offices in the township. He has been assessor for the past six years, has been town clerk, and is stockholder and director in the Riceland Creamery and stockholder and director in Lerdal Telephone Company.

**Christ Yost** was born in Germany September 15, 1837, the son of Frederick and Louisa Yost. He received his education in Europe and came to United States in 1857, locating on a farm near Chicago. He lived there and later worked in the city of Chicago. In 1866 he purchased land in Nunda and moved here. He later sold this first purchase and bought his present farm in section 16, and followed general and dairy farming till 1907, at which time he sold his farm to his son and lives a retired life on the old home place. On May 11, 1862, he married Elizabeth Lucas and to this union were born seven children. Frederick W. married Susan Harrington; Mary L. married Ernest Lindemann; Katie A. married Charles Fink; Margaret A. married Frank Fink; Louis married Emelia Smith and they live on the home place. John, the youngest child, married Lottie Marby. On September 15, 1910, John was killed in an automobile accident. Mr. Yost's wife died in September, 1896. On December 11, 1898, Mr. Yost married Minnie Barst. He is a member of the Lutheran church. He votes with the Republican party.

**Valentine Katzung**, one of Manchester's leading farmers, was born in Germany, January 4, 1845, son of Joseph and Margaret (Hoffman) Katzung, who came to America with their family in 1855, first locating in Winnebago county, Illinois, where the



mother died some years after, the father following her to the grave some time later. Valentine attended the schools of his native land, and came with his parents to America in 1855, at ten years of age, locating with them in Winnebago county, Illinois, and there attending the English schools, completing his education and there growing to manhood. Then he resided for a year in Columbia county, Wisconsin. In June, 1862, he came to Minnesota, and on January 1, 1863, joined the Union army by enlisting in Company F, First Minnesota, serving until October 15, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., on account of the close of the war. He served in most of the battles and skirmishes in which his regiment engaged. He was wounded in the left ankle at the Battle of Gettysburg, which kept him from his company for seven weeks, after which he resumed his duties until discharged. Then he returned to Minnesota and located in Faribault county for four years, after which he came to this county and located in Mansfield township, where he purchased eighty acres of land in section 9, and here established his home and engaged in farming. He first constructed a sod house in which he and his family lived for nine years. His present home was erected in 1903, and is one of the finest in the township. Mr. Katzung worked hard, and by dint of hard labor and his untiring efforts he prospered as the years glided by and added to his holdings from year to year until he owned over a thousand acres of land, one section, 640 acres, of which was across the line in Keister township, Faribault county, the balance being in the present farm in Manchester township, where he still resides. The section of land in Faribault county he has divided among his sons, August, Edward, William and Herman, who are now substantially located on the land. Aside from the farms, he equipped them with stock and horses, and fitted them in every way to begin life for themselves upon a substantial foundation. Mr. Katzung follows general farming and a visit to his large farm shows the evidence of his thrift and farsightedness. Mr. Katzung is an independent Republican and the family faith is that of the German Lutheran church, of which they are faithful attendants and of which Mr. Katzung is a liberal supporter. He, together with others, was instrumental in the building of the Manchester Creamery, in which institution he is a stockholder and director at the present time. Like all others who fought for the Union cause, he is still loyal and intensely patriotic, and has for a good many years been an active member of Ash Post, G. A. R., of Alden, Minn. He was married August 2, 1868, to Christina Yost, daughter of Frederick and Fredereka Yost, natives of Germany, where she was born February 10, 1850. She has proven a capable and faithful helpmeet through all these years



and deserves much credit for the present prosperous condition of the family. Of the thirteen children who have blessed their union eleven are living. They are: August, Edward, William, Ferdinand, Herman, Fred, Bertha, Ernstina, Alwena, Louisa and Elizabeth. Those dead are Minnie and Katherine.

**David A. Davidson** was born April 29, 1859, and is a native of Norway, the son of Andrew and Rachel Davidson, who came to the United States in 1868 and settled on section 35, township of Mansfield, where they bought forty acres of land. Their son, David, began to work out as soon as he was old enough and later rented some land and started for himself. In 1885 he bought eighty acres of land in sections 22 and 27. Here he made his home and built a house, barn and the other buildings necessary, and he also in many ways made other improvements. On February 5, 1891, he married G. Skogen, of Wisconsin, and to them have been born eight children. Mr. Davidson is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican. He has held the office of assessor five years, has also been school clerk nine years, which is evidence that he has the confidence of the people in the community in which he resides.

**George Olson**, who was born August 19, 1843, is still actively engaged in farming on section 29 in Nunda township. He is the son of Ole and Carrie (Gunderson) Trondson, who were natives of Norway. The subject of this biography came to the United States in 1871, after learning the carpenter's trade in Norway, and located in Albert Lea, where he followed the business of carpenter and builder for more than thirty years. In 1901 he came to his present home in Nunda and took up farming, which has been his chief business to the present time. He has made notable use of his trade by building himself a handsome dwelling on his farm, modern in all essentials. In February, 1886, he married Christiana Emmons, and to them have been born nine children, two of whom are deceased. The living are: Carl, Otto, Etta, Lester, Morris, Alice and Russell. Carl operates the garage in Emmons. Mr. Olson is a member of the Lutheran church. He votes with the Republican party.

**J. P. Nelson**, the owner of Maple Leaf Stock Farm, came to this country from Denmark in 1881. Two years after his arrival here his parents, Ole and Maren (Olsen) Nelson, came and settled in Bancroft township. J. P. was born July 31, 1866, in Denmark and was only fifteen years old when he left home to seek his fortune in America. For some time after reaching this country he worked out by the month and spent about six years traveling, working on the railroad and in the pine woods, and eventually settling in Bancroft. He purchased the William Kennedy farm, which he cultivated and made yield abundantly for eight

years, after which he moved to another farm a year. He rented his present farm a year and then purchased it from N. T. Sandburg, the pioneer. This farm comprises 247½ acres of good land, of which Mr. Nelson keeps about 200 acres under cultivation and the remainder is in meadow and pasture. He is interested in general farming, but devotes a greater portion of his time and attention to dairying. Formerly he favored Shorthorn cattle. Now he keeps a valuable dairy herd of Holstein cows and ships their milk to the local creamery, being president of the Bancroft Co-operative Creamery Association. He married Carrie Hendrickson, a daughter of Ole and Martha Hendrickson, and to this marriage two children have been born—Mamie and Ella. Mr. Nelson is prominent in the affairs of his township and at present is the justice of the peace. He is an independent voter. He is held in high esteem by his fellow men and well deserves their trust and confidence, as his life of honesty and integrity bears witness.

**Seth Sleeper Challis** was born on a farm in Corinth, Vt., April 7, 1822. He gained his education in the schools and academy of that town and worked for a time at the carpenter's trade. When about twenty-five years of age he went to Manchester, N. H., where, for several years he worked in the cotton factories, taking an occasional fishing trip to the banks of Newfoundland for cod, mackerel and halibut. November 22, 1852, he was married in Mathuen, Mass., to Ann Julia Orr, also a native of Corinth. They settled in Gloucester, Mass., where he worked at the carpenter's trade. In January, 1857, he sailed from New York to California by way of Panama, his wife and two daughters returning to the old home at Corinth. Five years later he returned across the plains, and the following June he and family arrived in Hartland township, where the next year he filed on the homestead in section 31 and built a house, hauling much of the lumber from Minneapolis by ox team, also using black walnut, sawed at the mill in Freeborn. He was active in the organization of a militia company, of which he was made captain, and in starting the public school in district No. 10, for which he built the first school house, which is still in use. Having sold his farm, he removed to Freeborn village in 1896, where he died November 8, 1905. Mrs. Challis celebrated her ninetieth birthday August 13, 1911, having with her the four daughters, Julia Emma, widow of W. L. Hansen; Roanna F., born in Massachusetts; Polly Abby, now Mrs. Christ Olsen, and Lucy Jane, now Mrs. I. H. Seath, born in Minnesota. The three older daughters were school teachers. All live at Freeborn.

**Benjamin Whittemore**, inventor, was born in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, July 22, 1856, son of James and Anna A.



(Tuttle) Whittemore, natives of New England, who came west in the early forties, and in 1867 moved to Missouri, where James died in 1896, his wife being still alive. Benjamin received his education in Wisconsin and Missouri, to which latter state he went with his parents in 1867. In 1877 he came to Freeborn county, and on January 3, 1878, he married Nancy Jennie Barden. The following two years they spent in Carthage, Mo. Then they returned to Freeborn county and located on the old Barden homestead in Manchester township. Mr. Whittemore is a Prohibitionist and a member of the Presbyterian church. He has invented the Whittemore Twentieth Century Road Grader, which was patented March 15, 1910. Simple and strong in its construction, the machine will cut a roadway eighteen feet wide, or a narrower width if desired. The work is done by two grader bars, each ten feet in length on one side of the machine. These bars are hinged, so as to swing in or out as may be desired, so as to cut and grade a wide or narrow roadway, as wanted. The bars will cut heavy sod as well as scrape up the loose dirt. At the rear of the machine is a V-shaped device of the same construction as the grader bars. This can be handled independent of the grader bars at the side, and with the aid of levers, raised or lowered, so that dirt gathered up in the grading can be carried along and let out wherever needed to fill up holes and depressions, and the roadway rounded in perfect shape at the same time. Each part is under perfect control by the use of levers or wheels, so that various conditions existing along the roadway can be taken advantage of by the operator. Moreover, the machine adjusts itself to all conditions without extra adjustment on the part of the operator. For propelling the grader a twenty-horsepower traction engine or a gas tractor is used, which enables it to move right along, making a shallow or deep cut as conditions may demand, at the rate of from two and one-half to three miles per hour. The machine is mounted upon three wheels, two in front and one at the rear, and is easily handled. The machine weighs about one and a quarter tons, is built of first-class material in all respects and is notably strong and durable. It can be made of any size desired, to grade from eight to thirty feet.

**Mrs. Benjamin Whittemore**, whose maiden name was Nancy Jennie Barden, was born in Erie county, New York, April 29, 1857, daughter of Gilbert J. and Harriett (Sherwood) Barden, pioneers of Manchester township. She came west with her parents in 1858, and was educated in the public schools of Albert Lea, after which she engaged in teaching for four years, one and a half years of this service being in the Albert Lea schools. She is a very interesting woman of the old New England type, and her recollections of the trials and struggles of the early days



are very vivid. January 3, 1878, she married Benjamin Whittemore, and after two years in Missouri they settled on her parents' homestead, where they still reside.

**Gilbert J. Barden**, deceased, a pioneer of 1858, in Manchester township, was born in Erie county, New York, March 18, 1826, son of Gilbert J., Sr., and Lina Washbourn Barden. He was married November 17, 1853, at Colden, N. Y., to Harriett Sherwood and in the spring of 1858 they located in section 24, Manchester township, this county, and secured 160 acres of government land, on which they engaged in farming. Some years later he established a livery stable at Albert Lea, which he conducted for six years. He was the first veterinary surgeon in the county. It is worthy of note as history that Mr. Barden, in the early days, walked from Albert Lea to McGregor, Iowa, a distance of 144 miles, to earn money to get shingles to cover his log cabin. He died November 7, 1894, at the old homestead, his declining years having been cared for by his daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Whittemore.

**Mrs. Gilbert J. Barden**, whose maiden name was Harriett Sherwood, was born at Salisbury, Vt., August 21, 1832, and was there educated. She came west with her husband in the spring of 1858 and will always be remembered by the people of Freeborn county for her many kind deeds and acts. She was among the first nurses in the city, and for several years assisted Dr. A. C. Wedge. Like him, she was always ready and willing to go where duty called. She was loved and cherished by all who knew her and her name will never be forgotten in this county. As an evidence that she was as brave and capable as she was kind, the story is told that she once drove an ox team alone from Albert Lea to McGregor, Iowa. She died September 25, 1910, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Whittemore, of Manchester.

**Charles Baker Augur**, whose work in behalf of the Albert Lea College will constitute his perpetual monument, was born in Talcottville, Lewis county, New York, June 10, 1864. He graduated from the Lowville Academy, Lowville, N. Y., class of 1884, and from a postgraduate course in the same institution in 1888. Four years later he graduated from the Union Theological Seminary, New York. He spent the summers of 1890-91 in Minnesota in behalf of the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work. From 1892 to 1896 he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fulda, Minn., and from 1896 to 1897 he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Morgan, Minn. Then he was called to Albert Lea to accept the position of secretary to the Albert Lea College for Women. He was secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Albert Lea College for four and a half years, resigning in May, 1902. On account of impaired health, he pe-



tioned the Mankato Presbytery for the privilege of "demitting" the ministry, which petition was granted after the legal requirement of one year's consideration, and his membership transferred from the Presbytery of Mankato to the First Presbyterian Church of Albert Lea. He has been president of the board of trustees of the Albert Lea College from the date of reorganization in 1905 to the present time. He is also junior member of the McArthur-Augur Land Company, of Tracy, Minn., and secretary of the following corporations: Lincoln Land Company, Minnetex Land Company and the Mexican-American Land & Colonization Company.

**Elliott Ash**, farmer, veteran of the Civil War and estimable citizen, was born in Wayne county, New York, December 30, 1836, son of John P. and Polly (Widger) Ash, natives of New York state, who came to Wisconsin in 1848 and there ended their days. Elliott received his early schooling in New York state. He later attended the Evensville (Wis.) Seminary and Milton College, of Old Milton, Wis., and then taught for several years. September 9, 1861, he enlisted at Janesville, Wis., in Company A, 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and after serving two years re-enlisted as a veteran soldier, serving until December 26, 1865, being mustered out at San Antonio, Tex. During his service he was promoted from private to corporal, and from corporal to sergeant. After leaving the army he returned to Janesville, Wis. June 5, 1866 he came to Freeborn county and bought land in Nunda township, on which he lived three years. Later he sold that and purchased eighty acres in section 31, Manchester township, which he broke and developed and where he erected the necessary buildings. Mrs. Ash also owns eighty acres, making a farm of 160 acres in all. Mr. Ash's first wife, Jennie E., whom he married March 13, 1866, died March 18, 1867. June 13, 1868, he married Ophelia D. Hall, and this union has resulted in two children. Ida is the wife of D. J. Chamberlain, a farmer of Stearns county, Minnesota. Leslie E. is at home. Mr. Ash is a member of Ash Post, No. 98, G. A. R., of Alden, and has served as its commander. He is an independent voter, has served as justice of the peace ten years and holds stock in the Armstrong Creamery. The parents of Mrs. Ash, Daniel C. and Sarah (Watts) Hall were natives of New York state. They came to Freeborn county in 1864 and located in Manchester township, where they spent the remainder of their lives in farming.

**Jens O. Jensen**, a pioneer of Manchester, was born in Norway November 16, 1813, and was married December 25, 1832, to Martha Olsdatter. In 1850 they came to Wisconsin, and after living there nine years came to Freeborn county in 1859 and settled in section 24, Manchester township. Of the ten children, three



sons were killed in the Civil War. Andrew was shot through the heart in Georgia, Ole died in the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Hospital, and John was killed in Virginia. Both Jens O. Jensen and his wife are now dead.

**James Jensen**, a respected and honored resident of Manchester and veteran of the Civil War, was born in Norway, August 13, 1839, son of Jens O. and Martha Jensen, who brought him to Wisconsin in 1851, and with whom he came to Freeborn county in 1859, settling in section 24. February 10, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and after three years was mustered out in Tennessee, receiving his papers of honorable discharge. At the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, while driving an ambulance, he was wounded in the left leg above the knee. After his discharge he returned to Manchester township and has since engaged in farming. He has improved his land and erected buildings and has added forty acres to his original farm, until he now owns 150 acres of good land. He is a member of the Robson Post, G. A. R., votes the Republican ticket, and attends the Lutheran church. He was married January 4, 1871, to Sena M. Peterson, born in Norway January 22, 1848, daughter of Peter Ammundsen and Maren Christensen, his wife, who came to America in 1865 and located in Manchester township, where they both died. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen have had seven children: John, Sena, Ingeborg M., Ella A., Petra M., Maria and Jane M. John, who assists in working the home farm, was born March 5, 1876. Sena Johanna Petersen is a widow living in Albert Lea. She was born July 21, 1880. The other five are dead.

**Rev. Oluf H. Smeby**, clergyman and educator, has been a resident of Albert Lea for many years, and has exerted an influential and uplifting influence. He was born in Rock Prairie, Rock county, Wisconsin, January 31, 1851, son of Hans and Helene (Fryslie) Smeby, who came to America in 1850, and after stopping a few months in Rock county, Wisconsin, came overland by ox team to Alamakee county, Iowa, where they took a homestead and engaged in farming the balance of their days. Oluf H. attended the district schools of Alamakee county, Iowa, and in the fall of 1865, at fourteen years of age, entered the Luther College at Decorah, Iowa, graduating from the full six years' course in 1871. Then he entered Concordia Seminary at St. Louis and graduated in 1874, being at once ordained to the ministry in the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod at Chicago, the services being conducted by the venerable Rev. H. A. Preus. Soon after his ordination he received a call to the Freeborn congregations as assistant to the Rev. E. Wulfsburg. In 1876, when the congregations were divided, he became pastor of the Albert Lea, Hayward and Oakland congregations, ministering to these people for some





JAMES JENSEN AND FAMILY





years. The Moscow and Trondhjem churches were added to his circuit, and he filled the pulpits of these five churches until 1894. Under the able leadership of Rev. Smeby the congregations grew until the work was too much for one man, consequently a division was made, and the Rev. Smeby was retained by the Albert Lea congregation. Since that time he has successfully ministered to this congregation, both to his own credit and to the satisfaction of his parishioners. For twelve years after the establishment of the Luther Academy at Albert Lea, he was a teacher there, serving also as secretary for some fifteen years. He was closely identified with the establishment of this school, and has always labored hard for its progress. Rev. Smeby has attained distinction in many ways. For twelve years he served as secretary of the Iowa district of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, and then became vice-president, which position he still retains. In 1898-99-00 he served as a member of the Hymn Book Committee, and in 1908 he was chosen a member to represent his synod in the preparation of a new hymn book, which will be a joint one, prepared by a committee consisting of representatives from the three great Norwegian Lutheran bodies: The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the United Lutheran Synod and the Hauge Synod. Rev. Smeby has been chairman of this joint committee three years, and the book will probably be ready for publication in 1912. The subject of this sketch was married June 29, 1876, at Chicago, Ill., to Marie Carlson, who was born in Skien, Norway, August 12, 1854, and came to America in 1868. This union has been blessed with nine children. Ida Mathilde is dead. The living are as follows: Rev. Hartwick C. preaches in Viroqua, Wis.; Diana H. married Dr. A. O. Aaker, and they live in Velva, N. D.; Rev. Olof V. preaches at Waterloo, Ia.; Volborg C., Agnes M., Frederick R., Theodora S. E. and Ida H. are at home.

**John F. D. Meighen**, one of the foremost attorneys of southern Minnesota, has attained an enviable reputation during the decade that he has practiced law in Albert Lea and neighboring cities, and is already far on the road to that brilliant success that his friends have predicted for him. He is regarded as one of the able attorneys of the state and one of the most prudent, studious and careful lawyers found anywhere. As a counsellor his opinions are regarded as safe, sound and reliable wherever he is known. A striking characteristic of Mr. Meighen's personality and temperament is a painstaking attention to detail in all the lines of his endeavor, and this, together with his ability and uprightness, has been an important factor in winning for him the universal confidence with which he is regarded. John Felix Dryden Meighen was born in Spring Valley, Minn., September 25, 1877. He attended the common schools and later entered the Upper Iowa University,



Fayette, Ia., where he completed the college course and received both bachelor's and master's degrees in literature. In 1900 he graduated from the regular three years' law course in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Mich. Aside from the education received in colleges, Mr. Meighen has had the advantages of extensive travel. His published letters regarding his trips to Ireland and Alaska, although written during the stress and discomforts of travel, display a keen observation of men and events and show his mastery of clean-cut and concise English prose. Soon after his graduation Mr. Meighen came to Albert Lea and has since practiced law continuously. He has done excellent work as a member of the board of trustees of Albert Lea College for Women, continuously since 1905. Among his fraternal associations may be mentioned membership in the Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M.; Albert Lea Chapter, No. 30, R. A. M.; Apollo Commandery, No. 12, Knights Templar; Zurah Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.; Halcyon Chapter, No. 21, O. E. S.; Albert Lea Lodge, No. 66, Knights of Pythias; Albert Lea Lodge, No. 813, B. P. O. E., and Albert Lea Council, No. 1406, Royal Arcanum. Mr. Meighen has represented clients in some of the most important Freeborn county cases, and his services in connection with the drainage ditch litigation and legislation has given him a state wide reputation.

**Arch Gifford Morgan**, the talented editor of the Glenville "Progress," was born October 18, 1860, in Bristol, Elkhart county, Indiana, third son of a large family, his parents being early pioneers of Winnebago county, Illinois, where they endured with fortitude all the trials and hardships incident to the building up of a pioneer country. The subject of this sketch commenced to earn his own living at the age of eleven years, worked on a farm a time, at sixteen years was employed a year as clerk in a store and at seventeen was clerk in a hotel for a year. He devoted the larger part of his life to farming until October, 1900, when he entered the ministry for five years. June 1, 1905, he took possession of the Glenville "Progress," where his uprightness and staunchness of principles have done much to promote the better interests of the community. Mr. Morgan is an ardent advocate of temperance, and has been prominently identified with the Prohibition party for over a quarter of a century. In 1908 he was delegate to the national Prohibition convention held in Columbus, Ohio. He has occupied a number of important positions, serving as village recorder, president of the fire company, member of the school board and trustee of the Free Methodist church. The subject of this sketch was married October 18, 1883, to Caroline Jenison, and their children are Louise, Mildred, Fred and Ruth. Mildred teaches in Belgrade, Minn. Louise works in her father's



printing office. Fred is working at the printing trade, and Ruth is in the grammar school.

**J. P. Freeman, M. D.**, was born August 22, 1876, in the township of Freeman, son of Robert and Eliza Freeman, the pioneers. He attended district school in the country and graduated from the high school at Northwood, Ia., in 1896. He then took up the study of medicine in the State University of Illinois, graduating in 1900. He then returned to Minnesota and established a practice in Emmons, where he remained for the following six years, after which he went to Glenville, where he is still located, having also conducted a drug store for a while. He is a member of the National, State and County Medical Associations, and has served as an officer of the latter.

**Jerome Bowen**, a progressive farmer of Freeborn township, was born January 11, 1886, son of Truman J. and Lillie J. (Young) Bowen. Jerome spent the earlier years of his boyhood on the farm obtaining knowledge of the many tasks which are required of the successful farmer. He received his education in the school of district 63 and, having completed its course, began the occupation for which he had prepared himself. After his marriage he located in section 18, Freeborn township. His farm of eighty acres shows the improvement which his care and cultivation have given and proves that he is destined to be one of the leading and substantial farmers in the community in which he resides. He married Edith Hoagland, a daughter of M. T. and Mary (Weed) Hoagland. In 1909 and 1910 Mrs. Bowen, then Miss Hoagland, was a teacher in district 63 joint. Mr. Bowen is a member of Star Camp, No. 8880, Modern Woodmen, at Freeborn village.

**Truman J. Bowen**, a successful and scientific farmer of Freeborn township, came to Minnesota from Illinois in 1863. He was born December 6, 1855, son of Truman E. and Sarah (Waters) Bowen, who brought their family to section 5, Carlston township, when the subject of this biography was a boy only eight years old. For many years the father was engaged in farming in Carlston and later moved to Freeborn township, where he spent the remainder of his life, entering into rest in 1892. Truman J. attended the country school in Carlston and early in life worked to fit himself for the active and arduous labors which are required of the successful farmer. That he has succeeded is evident from his broad, well cultivated acres, his comfortable house and the good barns and necessary buildings which belong to his home and farm. He selected as his life's partner Lillie J. Young, daughter of Samuel and Susan Young. Following are their living children: Maggie, the wife of Herman Hunter; Susan, now Mrs. Charles Hoagland; William, Jerome, James, Morton A., Gertie,

Esther, Harry, Elsie and Verle. One is dead. Mr. Bowen's many duties on the farm have prevented his actively engaging in political affairs, and he is an independent voter.

**Thomas H. Hjort**, vice-president of the American Gas Machine Company, of Albert Lea, was born in Denmark on September 10, 1870, the son of Peter T. and Margaret Hanson, natives of Denmark, the former of whom died in 1887 and the latter in 1910. The subject of this sketch attended school in Denmark and at the close of his schooling followed blacksmithing. In the year 1888 he came to America and located in Albert Lea, where he followed his trade and farmed some. He continued at his trade until going into partnership with Mr. Hanson. Mr. Hjort's connection with the American Gas Machine Company is told elsewhere. In 1905 Mr. Hjort was married to Hanna Nelson, daughter of Hans Nelson, a farmer in Albert Lea township. They have one child. In his political life Mr. Hjort is an independent voter, and attends the Baptist church. He is a faithful member of the U. C. T. and the Danish Brotherhood and I. C. M. A. of Chicago. Mr. Hjort makes his home at 214 South Pearl street.

**C. T. Nelson** was born in Hayward township August 8, 1875, son of H. C. Nelson. He received his early education in the district school near his home and later in life attended the Luther Academy. After completing his schooling he purchased 120 acres of land in section 27 and assumed entire charge of it, carrying on a general farming business. He later disposed of this property and bought eighty acres in section 22, and here has made his home since. He does general and dairy farming and raises many Poland China swine, being one of the successful farmers in the community. He has made many improvements on his farm, including the building of a new barn. In 1904 he married Ingeborg Skaar, daughter of G. C. Skaar, of Hayward. He is a Democrat in political opinions and his religion is the teachings of the Lutheran church. He has held many of the responsible offices in the township, having been elected chairman of the town board in 1910, on which he had served the previous year as a member. He has been a member of the school board and served under Gov. John A. Johnson as state boiler inspector. He also is a director and stockholder in the Hayward Creamery. A man of good judgment and integrity, Mr. Nelson is held in high esteem by the residents of the community in which he makes his home.

**Hans Stensrud** has for many years been a substantial figure in the village of Freeborn. He is of Norwegian birth and parentage, having first seen the light of day October 11, 1835. He came to the United States in 1866 and brought with him his wife, father and mother and a brother. The family came west to Minnesota and located in Fillmore county, where Hans, the subject of this



biography, worked out through that summer and fall. He then came to Freeborn township and purchased some land for his father in section 27, and here he worked until his father's death, which occurred in 1869. Assuming entire charge of the property at this time, he remained until 1904, and then disposed of the place and moved into Freeborn village, where he has erected a beautiful home and is living in retirement. His wife was Caroline Hanson before her marriage to Mr. Stensrud and they are parents of Annie, wife of Senator B. N. Anderson; Hans Jr., of Hartland; Caroline, at home; Carl, a farmer; Inger, who is married and lives in Manchester, and Hartwick, who is a resident of Freeborn. Mr. Stensrud was in the Norwegian army previous to his coming to this country and bears an honorable record for his service there. He has served Freeborn town by acting as chairman of the board of supervisors for several years, and at present he is a director of the State Bank of Freeborn. In various offices of trust and responsibility to which he has been elected, he has ever given his best efforts and conscientious endeavors, and he is regarded as a leading and reliable citizen of the town and county.

**Frederich C. Stiehl**, also known as Frederich C. Steele, an extensive landowner in Pickerel Lake township, was born in Germany May 13, 1858, son of Christ and Mary (Schaeffer) Stiehl. Fourteen years later he came to the United States with his father and mother and they proceeded west to the home of their son Henry, who resided in Alden township, on the "Morin Farm." Following his arrival here, Frederich, the subject of this sketch, was employed in various occupations until he had reached the age of twenty-eight years, at which time he purchased a farm in section 19 and here established his home. In 1886 he was united in marriage with Louisa Yost, a daughter of Barnhardt Yost, and to them have been born eleven children: Barnhardt, the eldest; Mary, now wife of William Toenges; Nora, married to Christ Pestorious; Fred, Frank, Rosettie, Carl, Hattie, Lindie, William and Louisa. Mr. Steele owns 440 acres of land in sections 18, 19, 13 and 24, and is one of the successful and prosperous farmers in the township. He has built a large and comfortable house, good barns and other necessary buildings. He has been supervisor of his township for a period of three years in the past, but does not seek public office, as the responsibility of caring for and managing his large farm occupies the greater portion of his time. He contributes to the support of the German Lutheran church of Pickerel Lake, of which he and his family are members.

**Alfred J. Anderson**, of the firm of Anderson Brothers, Albert Lea's progressive builders and contractors, is a native of Iowa, where he began life May 12, 1871. His parents, Jasper and Mary



Anderson, were of Swedish birth and came to the United States in 1865, locating first in Indiana, where he followed his trade as stone mason and was also interested in farming. Later he moved to Iowa. The years from 1879 to 1883 were passed in business in Minneapolis and St. Paul, after which the family returned to Freeborn county, where the father died in 1901 and the mother survived him only five years. Their son Alfred, the subject of this sketch, attended the public schools of both Iowa and Minnesota and afterward became a carpenter and contractor. In 1883 he came to Albert Lea, where he continued along this line of work, and in 1905 started a general contracting and carpentering business. Mr. Anderson has never married. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and also of the Knights of Pythias. His brother, Victor C., is in business with him.

**O. A. Boe**, a modern and progressive farmer, who owns 160 acres of good, fertile land in section 35, Riceland township, first saw the light of day January 25, 1873, in the township where he now resides. In 1871 his parents, Andrew I. and Anna Boe, settled in Riceland, having left their home in Norway and crossed the ocean to America. They bought eighty acres of land at first and, as prosperity crowned their honest toil, they purchased more land, eventually becoming the owners of 240 acres. Here for thirty-seven years they tilled the soil, sparing no effort toward improving their property. How well they succeeded in their life's work is demonstrated by the fact that in 1908 they retired from the arduous labor of the farm and moved into the city of Albert Lea, where they now reside. O. A., the subject of this biography, acquired a good education, beginning in the country schools and ending in the Luther Academy of Albert Lea. He then purchased 200 acres of his father, to which he devoted his time and attention for a period of four years, after which he disposed of it and bought the farm now occupied by himself and family. Three years after he moved to this farm he rented it and entered in partnership with Berkvam & Winjum in a grocery business, remaining in this work for three years. He then returned to his farm in 1910 and has since engaged in general farming. He married Gertrude Bell in 1899 and to this union have been born five children: Audrey, Irwin, Theo, Oliver and Leonard. Mr. Boe has ever held the esteem and regard of those associated with him in the different offices which he has held in his community. He has been a member of the school board, also of the town board, and is one of the stockholders in the Sumner Valley Creamery. He follows the teachings endorsed by the Lutheran church and his political views coincide with those of the Republican party.



**Erick Berglund**, a representative citizen of Albert Lea, was born in Sweden December 7, 1866, son of John Berglund. When but two years of age he was brought to America by his parents, who came to Minnesota and settled in Albert Lea township. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools in the locality of his father's farm and he spent the years of his boyhood in study and working for his father. When he became twenty-two years old he purchased a farm of eighty acres, located in this same township, in section 29, which he disposed of two years later, and then purchased his present property, which comprises 200 acres in section 28, Albert Lea township. In 1904 Mr. Berglund rented his farm and moved into the city of Albert Lea, where he remained three months, after which he bought forty acres south of the city, which he sold in 1908. He next bought his present home, which comprises fifteen acres in section 5, where he now resides. Here he remodeled the buildings and made many improvements. He now occupies his time looking after his various business interests and carrying on general farming. He is a staunch member of the Prohibitionist party, to the principles of which he lends his loyal support. He has been elevated to serve in many of the public offices in the township, among which are school treasurer of district 110 for twelve years, member of the town board, supervisor, town treasurer, and he is one of the directors of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Bath. On June 24, 1890, Mr. Berglund married E. Engblom, daughter of J. M. Engblom, of Bancroft. To Mr. and Mrs. Berglund five children have been born: Ellen J., Ruth E., Paul M., Philip J. and Verna E., who are all at home. The family attend the Baptist church in Albert Lea and are respected members of that organization.

**Botolf Bridly**, who was born October 13, 1869, is a native of Norway, son of Ole B. and Bertha Bridly, who brought him to America in 1882. Landing in Quebec they came west and finally settled in Riceland township, this county, where they lived eight years. Then the subject of this sketch and his father bought 120 acres in section 31, Moscow, which they have since worked and brought to a high state of cultivation. They keep twenty-four head of dairy cattle of the Shorthorn breed, also a good number of Poland-China hogs. On February 6, 1896, Mr. Bridly married Minnie Rienlso, of Riceland, and to them have been born ten children: Olaf, Clara, Robert, Martin, Norman, Dagmar, Palma, Clarence and the twins Beatrice and Blanche. The subject of this biography is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican of the progressive type and has held many offices of public trust, among which are supervisor of town two years, treasurer of Four Corners Telephone Company two years,

manager of Farmers' Creamery, treasurer of school district No. 28 and secretary of the Lutheran church, of which he is a member. Hard work and conscientious endeavor in many lines have given him his present high place in his community, where he has the respect and esteem of his acquaintances.

**Even J. Hallum**, a well known land owner of Manchester township, was born near Christiana, Norway, April 2, 1859, son of Johannes and Christina Hallum. His father worked at his trade as a carpenter and also farmed. In 1861 the family came to the United States and located in Fayette county, Iowa, where they remained two years. In 1863 they came to this county and in Hartland township took a homestead of eighty acres, where the father cultivated the land until 1875, in which year they moved to Manchester. It was here that the father tilled the soil and followed general farming till 1901. In November of that year he died. The mother died in 1902. This sturdy old couple had reared a family of eight children: Martha, Nicolina, Louis, Carl, Even J., the subject of this sketch, Ingar, Caroline and Clara. Even J. was educated in the common schools of Hartland township and, after completing his studies, he took up regular work on the home farm, where he worked till twenty-one years of age. He then bought the land where he now lives, owning 440 acres, with over 300 acres under cultivation. On June 24, 1880, he married Mary Severson, daughter of Andrew Severson, of Manchester. To this union has been born seven children: Alfred, Carl, Josephine, who is a teacher, Inga, Oscar, who married Hilda Haakenson, George and Theodore. Mr. Hallum is a member of the Lutheran church, as was his father before him. In politics he is a Republican but does not seek public office.

**Anton Hansen**, of Hansen & Doerr, painters, was born in Germany February 6, 1850, the son of Christ Hansen, a German blacksmith. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Germany and, upon leaving school, was a sailor until 1870. Then he learned the painting and wallpaper business, and came to this country in 1871, locating in Chicago. He followed his trade there until 1881, when he came to Albert Lea. In 1900 Mr. Hansen went into partnership with John Doerr and they established a splendid business, which has flourished ever since that time. In 1874 he was married to Eliza Finck, a native of Germany. She died in 1891. Mr. Hansen makes his home over his paint shop at 206 West Clark street.

**Aslak Haraldson** was born July 28, 1845, a native of Norway and son of Harold Torgeson and Aase Lea, his wife, who came to America in 1861 and located in Freeman township, in Freeborn county, where they took a homestead and farmed. They remained here until death; the father died in 1882 and the mother in 1884.



Aslak attended the American country schools, although he had received a good education in Norway before coming here at the age of fifteen. After leaving school he worked on the home farm until 1875. He then bought 160 acres in Freeman township and has added to this until he now has 240 acres, which is nearly all under cultivation. He here follows general farming with much attention to stock raising. In 1876 he married Mary Stovern, a native of Norway, and to them have been born nine children, eight of whom are living: Harold Oscar and Adolph C. are in Montana, Henrietta and Clara are school teachers, Peter W. is in North Dakota, Alexandria lives in Freeman, Ruth and Walter are at home. Mr. Haraldson is a member of the Lutheran church. He is independent in politics and has been a member of town board and school board, as well as serving in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature in 1885. He is a stockholder of the Freeman Dairy Association, and president of the local telephone company. Mr. Haraldson is a man highly respected in his community and his advice is sought and heeded on many public issues.

**Henry W. Johnson** was born October 26, 1873, in Austin, Minn., son of Carl Johnson. When he was two weeks old his mother died, and his uncle, Nels Johnson, of the town of Mansfield, Freeborn county, took him into his home. There he grew to manhood and attended the country schools. As he grew up he worked hard for his uncle, and later for eight years rented land from him. The subject of this sketch now owns 160 acres in section 20, in Mansfield, where he has recently erected a comfortable and roomy dwelling as well as barns and sheds to shelter the full equipment of the farm. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Mansfield. In politics he is a Republican. On September 12, 1901, he married Lena Trondson, who formerly lived in Iowa. To this union have been born five children: Helmer, Edna, Hanna, Walter and Sanford.

**Severt P. Nelson** is one of the prominent farmers in the township of Albert Lea and the owner of 280 acres of land near Glenville. He has about 130 acres of this farm under the plow and the remainder is in meadow and pasture land. In connection with his general farming interests Mr. Nelson makes a specialty of raising hogs and sheep. He also raises good horses for general purposes and keeps a dairy herd of cattle. His well improved farm adjoins the old homestead occupied for many years by his parents and the place where his boyhood days were spent. His marriage to Jennie Rood, daughter of John C. Rood, occurred in 1891, and three children have been born to them: Jesse P., Everett S. and Leonard R. Mr. Nelson has held many offices in his township, among which are: Clerk of school board in district 54, an

office which he has held for four years; member of the town board, to which he has been elected four years, and many minor offices, which proves the respect in which he is held by the residents of the community. He attends the Norwegian Lutheran church and contributes to its support. He is independent in political views, but has been a member of the Republican party in the past.

**Peter Nelson** and Bertha Rustad, his wife, were born in Norway and emigrated from that country to this in 1860. They first located in Wisconsin, where they remained but a short time, after which they moved to this county and settled in Freeman township. Later they acquired land in Albert Lea township, which they broke and cleared and made ready for cultivation, and these 160 acres provided the means for their support as the years passed. Four children were born to them: N. P., living at the old homestead; Rosalia, the wife of Ole Westrum, of Hayward; Edwin P., also a resident of Hayward, and Severt P. Peter Nelson has long since entered into rest and his widow makes her home with her son, N. P.

**Alfred S. Peterson**, who conducts a hardware store in Clarks Grove in partnership with his brother, P. A. Peterson, is one of the leading business men in the township. He was born April 3, 1883, in this county, son of C. F. and Mary Peterson, natives of Denmark. His early education was acquired in the common schools in the county and later he attended the high school of Albert Lea for two years. For two years after he completed his education he worked on a farm, after which he secured a position as clerk in a grocery store. One year later he decided to go to the Pacific coast, where he clerked in stores about a year. In 1904 he returned and, with his brother, P. A., organized the firm of Peterson Brothers. They carry a large stock of hardware, which includes harnesses and farm implements. In 1904 Alfred S. married Alvina E. Peterson, daughter of Hans C. Peterson, a pioneer resident of the county, now deceased. In politics Mr. Peterson endorses the sentiments of the Prohibition party, but has never aspired to any public office.

**C. F. Peterson** and Mary, his wife, came to this country from Denmark in 1870 and settled in Bancroft township, where for several years they remained and carried on general farming. Later they moved to Albert Lea, and here Mr. Peterson established a coal, fuel and dray business and also kept a feed stable. This business he successfully conducted for many years but, preferring the quiet and free life of a farmer, he eventually sold his interests in the fuel business and returned to his old occupation. He continued his agricultural pursuits until he retired from farming and came to Albert Lea, where he and his estimable wife are



living at the present time in a fine home which they own and which years of toil and self denial have made possible.

**S. Svendson**, a well known merchant of Geneva, was born in Denmark April 11, 1866, and came to this country when he was sixteen years of age. His parents, Christ and Johanna (Matson) Svendson spent their whole lives in Denmark. S. Svendson located in Geneva when first coming to this country and has made it his home since that time. During the first few years that he was in this country he worked at farming, but in 1892 he accepted a position as clerk in Geneva. In 1894 he started work for F. M. Jones, and two years later, in partnership with John T. Robson, engaged in a general mercantile business, the firm being known as Robson & Svendson. Mr. Svendson has been of service to the village in which he has made his home, acting for many years as postmaster, to which position he was appointed in 1894, two years before he went into business. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. He is a member of Western Star Lodge, No. 26, A. F. & A. M., at Albert Lea. The store with which Mr. Svendson is connected carries a large stock, which is constantly enlarged to meet the demands of a growing business. The store has a reputation for good goods and honest and courteous dealing, and has been accorded a full measure of success and prosperity.

**M. H. Skophammer**, street commissioner of Albert Lea, was born in Bancroft township on March 20, 1864, the son of Peter and Bertha Skophammer, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1853 and located in Round Prairie, Wis. They remained there until 1860, when they removed to Bancroft township, where the father bought a farm and did general farming until his death in 1905. The mother lives in Albert Lea with her son, the subject of this sketch. M. H. Skophammer attended the district schools of Bancroft township. Leaving school he worked with his father on the farm until 1888, when he came to Albert Lea and worked in the brickyard for two seasons. He then went to Butte, Mont., where he remained one and one-half years. Then he returned to Freeborn county and rented a farm in Bancroft township. This he continued for seven years, after which he purchased eighty acres, which he worked three years. Mr. Skophammer then sold his farming property and bought a feed and livery barn in Albert Lea, which business he conducted for eight years. During the last five years of this period he was also in partnership with his brother, Jens. At the end of this time he traded his share in the livery business for a farm, which he later sold. In the year 1909 Mr. Skophammer was appointed street commissioner, which position he is occupying at the present time. In 1896 the subject of this sketch married Emma Hammer, of Ban-



croft township. Their home was blessed with one child, Grant. Mrs. Skophammer died in 1899. Mr. Skophammer in politics is a Republican and a member of the Lutheran church and the I. O. O. F. lodge. He makes his home at 422 Euclid street.

**N. P. Sorenson**, a scientific farmer of Alden township, is one of the prominent men of that locality. He was born in Denmark April 13, 1860, and came to America when he was twenty-one years of age, landing May 17, 1881. He spent some time in Chicago, and then came to Alden. For the first few years he was employed on various farms. As he learned the language and customs of the residents here and saved his hard earned money, he was able in a few years to begin farming for himself, first renting a few acres of land and later purchasing the valuable farm in section 10, where he now resides. He carries on general farming, together with dairying and stock raising, and has erected a comfortable house and commodious barns on his broad acres. By his wife, Hannah, he has eight children, one of whom has married and borne him grandchildren. Mr. Sorenson has been honored by various public offices in the township, among which are town chairman and member of the town board, which latter office he occupies at the present time. He is also treasurer of the Danish Lutheran church and of the Danish Brotherhood.

**John J. Vold**, an extensive land owner and popular farmer of Bath township, was born August 31, 1876, son of John A. and Anna (Lea) Vold. John A. was born in Norway and came to America in 1861, making his home in Chicago, where he secured work in a lumber yard. Two years later he moved to Minnesota and settled in Bath township. After working out for a time he acquired a farm comprising 160 acres of school land and conducted general farming. He was married March 25, 1868, to Anna Lea, who was born in Norway November 7, 1839, came to this country in 1867, and lived with relatives in Bancroft. To them were born five children: Anna, now Mrs. Hans Grunwold, of Ellendale; Andrew, an expert butter maker; Nettie, deceased; Nellie, the wife of Nels Folie, and John J. The subject of this sketch owns a farm of 240 acres and is a believer in all modern methods in farming, having his property well equipped with the latest and best machinery with which to carry on his work. He is able to keep his farming implements and gasoline engine in good repair, for together with his knowledge of general farm work he is also a blacksmith and carpenter. He keeps graded stock and raises many hogs, for which he receives the best market prices. He is a Democrat in political views, but has never sought public office. His valuable farm today was once a dense thicket, but years of hard work and self denial have made possible his present prosperous condition.







MR. AND MRS. JOHN RASMUSSEN



**John Rasmussen**, one of the prosperous and substantial farmers of Carlston township, now living in Alden village, has for a number of years taken an active part in agricultural, creamery, church, business and town affairs, and is a man much honored and respected by his neighbors and friends. He was born in Denmark February 11, 1846, son of Rasmus Nelson and Anna Rasmussen, natives of Denmark, who came to America with their children and spent the balance of their lives here. He received his education in the schools of his native land, and there grew to manhood. In 1868 he crossed the briny deep and came to America. After a few months in Wisconsin he came to Freeborn county the same year, and engaged in railroad work for a time. Two years after coming to the county he located in Carlston township and engaged in farming. For eight years he rented farms, and then purchased eighty acres in section 35, which he broke and developed, building thereon a frame house and a fine set of outbuildings. To this original tract he added from time to time until he owned 220 acres, bordering on what is now the village line of Alden. Here he followed general farming until 1907, when he rented the place to his son, Walter E., and purchased land within the corporation limits of Alden village, adjoining his farm. Here he built a comfortable modern home, where he and his wife are pleasantly spending the retiring years of their lives, enjoying the well-earned reward of their hard labor, economy and sacrifice. Mr. Rasmussen is a Republican in politics and was supervisor of Carlston township for four years. He is a stockholder in the Security State Bank and First National Bank of Alden, and was one of those most instrumental in the building of the Alden Creamery, serving as one of the trustees of that institution for several years. He is a prominent member of the Danish Lutheran church, of which he is a strong supporter, having served as trustee of the church for many years. The subject of this sketch was married June 11, 1871, to Mary Steele, who has proven a most devoted and capable helpmeet. She was born in Germany September 16, 1847, daughter of Christ and Mary (Schaeffer) Steele, who came from Germany to Freeborn county in 1872. A sketch of these worthy people is found in connection with that of Mrs. Rasmussen's brother, Henry Steele (Stiehl), which appears in this volume. Mrs. Rasmussen came to this country with her brother in 1867, and here met the young man who afterward became her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen are the parents of six children: Emma is now Mrs. Frank Rafoth, of Carlston township; Anna is now Mrs. C. A. Barner, of Alden; Ada is now Mrs. Peter Raun, of Alden; Walter E. conducts the old home farm; Mary is the wife of Carl W. Nelsen, of Alden; Louise R. is at home with her parents.



**Swan Peterson**, who is a native of Sweden, was born October 28, 1848, and is the son of Peter and Hannah Peterson. He was married February 26, 1872 to Caroline Suberg and to them have been born six children: Henry, Nels, Hannah, Swan, and Ellen. In 1878 he came with his family to America and settled in Mansfield Township, and bought land in section 19. At the present time he has a farm of 280 acres of land, the most of which is under cultivation. He follows general and dairy farming and sells his dairy product to the Mansfield Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. Mr. Peterson is a deacon of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Mansfield. He votes with the Republican party and has been director in school district 121 for nineteen years.

**John Monsen**, who is at present living a retired life at 215 South Pearl street, Albert Lea, was born in Norway on December 6, 1847. His parents, Mons and Karn (Kjolstad) Monsen, came to America in 1871 and settled first in Freeman township, Minnesota, later removing to Polk county, where the father died February 28, 1910, the mother having passed away several years prior to that time. John, the subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of his native land, and crossed the ocean to America in 1869. Upon his arrival in this country he proceeded west, stopping for a short time at LaCrosse, Wis., after which he came to Minnesota and settled in Freeman township. During the winter of 1870, Mr. Monsen attended school in Freeman township, that he might master the English language more readily. The following two years, he spent in the pine woods in northern Minnesota, and then he returned to Freeborn township and was employed for several months as a farmer, after which he came to Albert Lea and secured work on the railroad for a few weeks. Soon after this, Mr. Monsen began to buy grain, and continued in this occupation for a year. Then he accepted a position with the W. P. Sargent Lumber Co., and from 1877 until 1883 worked in the yards of this company, at Glenville, then being transferred to the Albert Lea yards. Some time later, Mr. Monsen became manager for the John Paul Lumber yards in Albert Lea, and when the business changed owners, several times, Mr. Monsen was retained by each new firm in the capacity of manager. In the spring of 1910, he resigned his position and retired from active life, and now devotes his time to attending to the various business interests, of the family who own 360 acres in Freeman township, also land in Polk county. Mr. Monsen adheres to the tenets of the Republican party, but he has never sought public office. He is a member of the English Lutheran church and he also belongs to the A. O. U. W. He has ever taken an active interest in all movements which have tended toward the development and improvement of his town and county, and he is recognized as a public



spirited citizen. On March 17, 1875, Mr. Monsen married Anna Larsen, who was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in January, 1853, a daughter of Nels and Antonette Larsen. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen came to America from Norway in the early forties, and settled in Wisconsin until 1860, when they came to Minnesota and located in Freeborn township, where the father engaged in farming for many years, later moving to Albert Lea, where both he and his good wife passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Monsen two children have been born. Adelia graduated from the Albert Lea high school and later from the Mankato state normal, and is now a teacher in the Albert Lea schools, where she gives excellent satisfaction. Norma is now a student in the Albert Lea schools.

**Christian Amundson**, one of the successful farmers of Freeborn township, was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, October 17, 1856. His father was a native of Norway, and came to America in 1850, locating first in Wisconsin, where Christian was born. Later he removed to Hartland township, in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he spent the remainder of his days. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and attended the district school. When he reached manhood's estate he was section foreman on the railroad for two years. He then rented land in Freeborn township and went to farming. In 1891 he bought 160 acres in section 1, in that township, on which he has since lived. He married Mary Christianson, a native of Norway. They have four children: Tena, Jennie, Nettie and Clara. Jennie is the wife of Louis Holverson, of Hartland township, and they have two children, Clara and Tena. Mr. Amundson has one of the pleasant farm homes of Freeborn county and his prosperity is the result of hard work and indefatigable industry. He has been a member of the school board in district No. 98.

**Iver A. Rodsater**, one of the pioneers of this county, was born near Bergen, Norway, September 18, 1845. When he had reached his majority, he came to the United States and located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he stayed but a short time and then came to Manchester township, arriving in 1867, and locating with Thor Anderson. He was well equipped for life's struggles, having acquired an excellent education by attending school and seminary of his native land. His wife, Ingeborg (Anderson) Rodsater, was a daughter of Thor and Cary (Evenson) Anderson, who were one of the first six families to locate in Manchester township. To this worthy couple were born ten children: Theodore, a clergyman of Brant, S. Dak., married to Anna Nelson, and they have two children; Ingeborg and Thora. Bertha is wife of Rev. John Ostrop. Clara is wife of Frederick Knudson, of Albert Lea. Alexander J. is a farmer. George is a lawyer of Mohall, N. Dak.

Laura is wife of Ed. Rosheim, D. D. S., of Roland, Iowa, and they have one son, Irvin E. Stella is a teacher. Arthur E. is a farmer. Alexander and Jacob now deceased. That Mr. Rodsater was a man of unusual ability is clearly shown by the prominent offices to which he was elected. He was the leader of the choir in the Norwegian Lutheran church to which he was a liberal contributor, and he taught in the parochial school.

He was an active member of the Republican party and for many years held the office of town clerk. He was also elected county commissioner for a period of years, in which capacity he proved his ability. From the date of its organization until the time of his death, which occurred in 1894, Mr. Rodsater acted as secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Faithful to all responsibilities, conscientious to a marked degree, he had the regard of all who were associated with him, either in business or social interests.

**Alexander J. Rodsater**, who has assisted in the progress of Manchester township, is an industrious farmer who owns 170 acres of land of which one half is under cultivation. He was born in Manchester on the farm where he now resides, January 27, 1877, son of Iver and Ingeborg (Anderson) Rodsater. He attended the district school when a boy and was busy during the vacation months assisting his father with the numerous tasks which constitute the daily routine of a farmer's life. Reaching manhood he purchased a part of the old homestead, and here has a well cared for farm on which are a comfortable house, commodious barns and a fine orchard. Thorella Gunderson, daughter of John Gunderson, of Chicago, married Mr. Rodsater October 1, 1902, and two children bless this union; Viola and Irwin. Following the teachings of the faith to which his father adhered he has the esteem of his brother members of the Lutheran church, and, like his father, he holds to the political views endorsed by the Republican party.



## CHAPTER XLII.

### APPENDIX.

**Famous Law Cases—The Kreigler, Carbury and Wing Homicides—Ruble's Alleged Claim to the "Court Square"—Some Additional Churches—Trondhjem, Moscow, Oakland and Hayward Congregations.**

As an appendix to his able article on the Bench and Bar of Freeborn county, Hon. Henry A. Morgan, has prepared a statement of some of the famous court cases in Freeborn county as follows:

**Kreigler Trial and Execution.** On May 6, 1859, occurred the first deliberate murder in the county, when Henry Kreigler, a half-demented German, deliberately and "with malice aforethought" took the life of his highly respected and kind-hearted neighbor, Nelson Boughton, in the presence of his family at the latter's home two and one-half miles east of the present village of Emmons. Kreigler has married a German widow who had a son about ten years of age whom he so shamefully abused that they left him, and Boughton's only offense was that he kindly let them stay at his home. On this fateful day Boughton had just arrived at his gate with a load of hay when Kreigler came along. Boughton called his attention to threats he had heard Kreigler had made that he would kill Boughton, and asked if then was not a good time. Kreigler at once drew a large dirk knife and proceeded to unwrap a string from around its blade. Boughton doubtless thought it a bluff and began lightly rapping his murderer over the hands with his pitchfork handle. As soon as the knife was ready Boughton was instantly stabbed three times and died in a few moments. Kreigler was at once arrested, brought to Albert Lea and indicted at the September term for murder in the first degree. A change of venue was taken to Steele county, where he was tried before Judge N. M. Donaldson, found guilty and sentenced to be hung March 1, 1861, and was executed accordingly.

The day of the execution was a lovely one. The deep snows of the previous winter were nearly gone, although a sleigh was used to convey the condemned man to the scaffold and to convey the remains to their final resting place a mile east of the Milwaukee depot. It was many years before Albert Lea again saw

so large a crowd. People flocked to the scene of execution from Mankato, Faribault, Winona, and nearly all the Minnesota towns to the east, and it was conservatively estimated that over four thousand people witnessed the event. It was a sober, quiet throng, as the two saloons had closed their doors the night before and liquor could not be obtained until after the close of this sad drama.

The gibbet was erected in Broadway on a low knoll at the foot of court house hill, nature forming a perfect amphitheater around which nearly every family in the county had gathered. When Sheriff James Robson and assistants entered his cell Kreigler showed no fear, and assisted in donning his white shroud and combed his hair in perfect composure. Though he had repeatedly been told that he must die, he did not seem to realize it until he reached the brow of the hill west of the court house, where he came in sight of the scaffold and assembled people, when his pale face, covered with great beads of perspiration, silently told his mental anguish. The exercises at the gibbet were very brief, not lasting more than fifteen minutes. Rev. A. Matson, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, offered a most fervent prayer and talked to the condemned man in the most kindly spirit, commending him to a merciful Saviour; but his remarks fell on deaf ears, the only response being "Me a poor man, me got no money." His crying could have been heard a half mile away, but was quickly silenced by the fateful rope.

The first trial occurred in Albert Lea, and the district attorney, O. F. Perkins, of Faribault, and J. U. Perry, of Albert Lea, prosecuted; while Charles McClure, of Red Wing, and Augustus Armstrong, of Albert Lea, were appointed to defend him. The jury was illegally drawn and a new trial was ordered. In March, 1860, a change of venue was taken to Steele county, where the accused was first tried as to his sanity, Attorney General Gordon E. Cole and J. U. Perry appearing for the state and O. F. Perkins and Augustus Armstrong for the defense. A jury pronounced him sane, and in May, 1860, he was again tried and the jury this time failing to agree, another trial was necessary, in December of the same year. This time, D. G. Parker appeared in place of J. U. Perry. Kreigler was again tried for his sanity and being again proven sane, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

**Carbury Case.** About six o'clock in the evening of August 17, 1895, at a time when Clark street was thronged with citizens, a man rushed into the street from the rear of Staunch's saloon pursued by another who overtook him in the middle of the street where the fatal assault was witnessed by a large number of passersby. Thomas Carbury was the assailant and John Gillen the victim.



They were both comparative strangers in the city, although Carbury had a family and had lived here a short time, while Gillen had never made his home here and was a mere transient visitor. Carbury and Gillen in company with two or three others had been drinking beer under the Staunch shed during the afternoon and a quarrel ensued in which it is believed that others took a hand and that Carbury was not the only assailant of Gillen. But, in spite of the most rigid investigation, and owing either to the reluctance or intoxication of those who might have cleared up the mystery and revealed the whole tragedy, the state was never able to secure any satisfactory history or explanation of just what did occur in the hidden interior of the saloon shed. It appeared conclusively that but one blow was struck in the street, and that with the naked fist, and that no weapon of any kind was used by Carbury in this assault; but, in spite of the absence of a weapon, eye-witnesses testified that Gillen, when struck, involuntarily doubled up like a jack knife and was unconscious when picked up and lived but a short time. The autopsy showed that the skull was fractured so that the whole top of the cranium was displaced, which could not have been the result of a single blow of a clenched fist by such a man as Carbury who was small and physically weak from army service and dissipation. The theory of the writer always has been that Gillen was struck with a weapon and his skull fractured before he left the shed, and that the blow administered in the street caused the displacement and consequent paralysis, and that had not a previous fracture been made the street blow could not have resulted so disastrously.

Carbury was indicted at the December term 1895, and tried in January, 1896, the trial lasting three days and resulting in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter in the second degree, for which he received a sentence of five years in the penitentiary. The case was tried before Judge John Whytock. Hon. H. W. Childs, attorney general; Henry A. Morgan, county attorney, and R. S. Clements, assistant county attorney, conducted the prosecution; while the defense was ably handled by W. E. Todd. This tragedy had much to do with Albert Lea voting "dry" at the following election.

**Wing Case.** In the fall of 1899, Albert Lea suffered from an epidemic of smallpox, and naturally many were opposed to going to the pest-house even when afflicted. The statute then gave the board of health authority by proper proceedings to remove any afflicted one to the pest-house if such person was without proper food or accommodations, or housed in a room occupied by more than one family, or in hotel, inn or boarding house, etc. Fred Wing was isolated in his own bed room upstairs in his own



home, which was duly quarantined, and where he was being cared for by his parents and was in no sense "without proper food or accommodation," nor did he come within any of the provisions of the statute authorizing his removal against his will or against the wishes and without the consent of his parents. His father, Charles B. Wing, and the whole family strictly observed the quarantine regulations, and Wing Sr. notified the board of health and public authorities that his son should not be removed to the pest-house, and forbid the officers to enter his house for that purpose. In face of this warning a number of police and health officers with an exaggerated idea of their authority, and in defiance of the rights of the members of the Wing household, forcibly entered the house for the purpose of forcibly removing the young man to the pest-house, which attempt was forcibly opposed by Charles B. Wing, the father. Among the officers engaged was Judson H. Randall, a special quarantine policeman, and in the struggle that ensued Mr. Wing used a small stove lifter and also a small section of a broom handle, the latter being broken and the former being the weapon with which the fatal blow was evidently struck. The officers finally abandoned the attempt and Mr. Randall returned with the other officers up town and on the way stated that Wing gave him an awful blow, but further than this seemed to suffer no more than would naturally result from a stinging blow of the kind with a light weapon. This was in the forenoon of November 4, and about noon Mr. Randall took to his bed where he soon lapsed into unconsciousness and died November 6, without regaining consciousness. The autopsy revealed the fact that the blow, evidently from the stove lifter, had caused a fracture of the thin temple bone and a fragment so pressed against the brain as to cause the paralysis that resulted in death as stated, although a very simple operation would have relieved the pressure and insured a complete recovery. Such an operation was timely and urgently advised by physicians, but the family would not permit it and the unfortunate man's life was thus sacrificed. Mr. Wing was indicted February 8, 1900, charged with murder in the second degree, and tried at the same term. On the seventeenth of February, after a trial that lasted several days, he was acquitted. Judge Nathan Kingsley presided at the trial, and the prosecution was conducted by Hon. Wallace B. Douglas, attorney general, and R. S. Clements, county attorney, while the defense was handled by Lafayette French and Henry A. Morgan.

The foregoing constitute a complete list of the homicide cases with which the records of the county have in the past been encumbered.

**Ruble Case.** Many notable civil cases have been tried in this



county, but to make special reference to them would immediately be considered discriminating. The fact is, that owing to the central location of Albert Lea, and exceptional railroad and business opportunities in the city since the settlement of the county, Freeborn county has been the field for a great deal of important litigation, and on several occasions in recent years the number of days of court held in a single year in this county has equalled, and in some years exceeded, the aggregate number of days of court held in the other three counties of the district. We feel not only justified, however, but consider it a part of our duty to briefly refer to the case of George S. Ruble against Freeborn county, which was tried and finally disposed of in the month of August, 1883. This case was important in all of its features and directly concerned every inhabitant of the county for the simple reason that it challenged and brought in question the title of the county to "Court Square," where the county buildings, consisting of the jail, sheriff's residence and the court house, were then situated. The town site of Albert Lea was located and platted before the county seat was definitely located. George S. Ruble was one of the original town site proprietors and owned all the land embraced in the town site east of Broadway street, and platted it into blocks and lots, except "Court Square," and the streets and alleys designated on the plat which was made by C. C. Colby, engineer, and filed at Mantorville, where such records were then required to be kept. "Court Square" was clearly designated on the plat. This was in 1856, and thereafter the county built a jail and sheriff's residence and court house on the property, and continued to use it for county purposes. In 1881 George S. Ruble challenged the title and brought suit to recover court square from the county, claiming that the county had never purchased the property and that he had never dedicated it to the county. This suit was brought by Sherman Page, formerly judge of the district court, as attorney for Mr. Ruble, but shortly after the commencement of the suit Mr. Page gave up the practice of law and moved to Pasadena, Calif., and James H. Parker, of Albert Lea, and William Ely Bramhall, of St. Paul, conducted the case for Mr. Ruble. The interests of the county were in the hands of John A. Lovely, county attorney, and his law partner, D. F. Morgan. Judge Farmer, of this district, invited Hon. Thomas Buckman of Faribault to preside at the trial and the case was tried before him and a decision rendered in favor of the county confirming the title in the county and forever setting at rest any adverse claims. The title of the county rested upon the dedication by Ruble as evidenced by his plat and by his oral statements from time to time, which were

reproduced and related by a host of witnesses, most of whom have since crossed the "Great Divide."

---

In this chapter have been included several articles received too late for publication in the body of this history, but worthy of preservation in this volume.

### SYNOD CONGREGATIONS.

#### **Trondhjem, Moscow, Oakland and Hayward Congregations.**

The Rev. O. O. Amdalsrud, of Hayward, is in charge of four congregations of the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Church. **The Hayward Congregation**, which was organized Friday, January 14, 1876, by Rev. Einar Wulfsberg, has 233 members. Its history, written by J. J. Hove, appears in the body of this work. Among the charter members of this church may be mentioned: Endre Gulbrandson, Peter Lunde, Ole Anderson, Engebrit H. Knatvold, Lars Lunde and V. Gulbrandson. Endre Gulbrandson, one of the pioneers of this church, was instrumental in securing the site for the cemetery so beautifully located at Hayward, the land being donated by the late Augustus Armstrong. The following articles are prepared by the pastor.

**The Oakland Congregation** was organized February 15, 1876, by Rev. E. Wulfsburg. The charter officers were John Bell, Sr., Jens Natvig and Andrew Lerum, trustees; Gunder O. Gunder-son, secretary. Among those who may be mentioned as prominent in the church in the early days are: Rognald Knutson, Ole J. Winjum, Lars Esse, Peder Tufte, Ole Ofstun, Roland Tisdal, James W. Johnson, H. K. Fodness and Ole O. Wangen. The church edifice, located at the northwest corner of the township of Oakland, was erected in 1896, and dedicated August 20 of the same year by the Rev. Dr. Ylvisaker.

**The Moscow Congregation** was organized March 17, 1887. Prominent in the work in that section were B. J. Stoa, Elling Soli, O. P. Lunde and G. Gullickson. Moscow church was built in 1910, and dedicated June 28, in that same year, by the Rt. Rev. O. P. Vangsness.

**Trondhjem Congregation**, whose church is located at the southeast corner of the town of Oakland, is small in numbers, but has a fine church building erected ten years ago and dedicated by the Rev. O. H. Smeby, of Albert Lea. This, with the Hayward, Oakland and Moscow congregations, constitute the Hayward-Oakland call, the first minister of which was the Rev. Einar



Wulfsburg, who was succeeded by the Rev. O. H. Smeby, of Albert Lea. He served the congregation from Albert Lea until the fall of 1895, when the Rev. T. O. Tolo, now at Belgrade, Minn., was called and installed. Rev. Tolo was the first resident minister at Hayward. A fine parsonage was erected in Hayward in 1896. Rev. Tolo served the congregations until the fall of 1899 and was succeeded by Rev. Ewind Skabo, who for seven years had been a missionary among the Mormons in Utah. At the death of Rev. Skabo the charge passed to the late minister's chaplain, Rev. Odm. Olof Amalsrud.

**Rev. Odm. Olof Amdalsrud** was born in Norway in 1859, and attended the schools of the city of Tromso. In 1890 he was sent by the Mission Society at Bergen, Norway, to New York City, to assist the Seamen's minister in his work for the spiritual welfare of the Scandinavian sailors in that port. In 1899 he was sent to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a minister to Scandinavian seamen in that port. He worked there three years and was then called to go to South Africa to look after the spiritual welfare of the sailors in Cape Town and Port Natal. Poor health compelled him to return to America in the fall of 1902. Since 1905 he has been located at Hayward, Minn., and has charge of the Trondhjem, Moscow, Hayward and Oakland congregations.





## BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

Aanrud, A. C.....	589
Aasen, Erik.....	718
Abbott, Russell B.....	751
Ackland, Charles.....	714
Ackland, Louis.....	714
Ackland, Nels.....	714
Amdalsrud, Rev. O. O.....	865
Amundson, Christian.....	857
Anderson, Andrew.....	715
Anderson, Alfred J.....	847
Anderson, Bernhart N.....	715
Andersen, C.....	573
Andersen, Christ.....	617
Anderson, Ellef.....	621
Anderson, J. C.....	621
Anderson, John.....	509
Anderson, Robert.....	554
Anderson, Thor.....	622
Andrews, Mrs. Fannie.....	494
Annis, J. Q.....	812
Armstrong, Augustus.....	521
Armstrong, Augustus, Jr.....	513
Armstrong, D. C.....	570
Armstrong, Thomas H.....	748
Ash, Elliott.....	841
Asleson, Bennett.....	625
Asleson, Oscar.....	736
Augur, Charles Baker.....	840
Ayars, Charles C.....	767
Ayars, Casper W.....	767
Ayars, John W.....	768
Babbitt, Carlton.....	742
Babbitt, Harvey.....	743
Baer, J. C.....	250
Bagaasen, O. K.....	723
Bailey, Fred.....	763
Bailey, William.....	764
Baker, F. E.....	670
Baker, William H.....	671
Bakken, A. O.....	571
Barck, Gustavus W.....	558
Barden, Gilbert J.....	840
Barden, Mrs. Gilbert J.....	840
Barlow, Andrew.....	711
Barlow, Frank W.....	711
Bartlett, Amander H.....	780

Bartlett, Jay.....	781
Barlow, Joseph H.....	724
Beach, S. A.....	629
Beedle, W. L.....	558
Beighley, S. M.....	593
Bell, Theodore.....	559
Bender, Adelbert H.....	630
Bergerson, Hans N.....	610
Berglund, Albert J.....	625
Berglund, Alfred.....	733
Berglund, Erick.....	849
Berglund, Johan.....	626
Berglund, Magnus.....	818
Berglund, Peter.....	747
Bessesen, John.....	747
Bessesen, W. A.....	773
Bickford, Hanibal.....	251
Bighley, J. D.....	609
Birch, Hans P.....	738
Blacklin, Martin.....	570
Blackmer, Bradford.....	250
Blackmer, Dr. Franklin.....	752
Blackmer, Frank A.....	628
Blackmer, Heman.....	772
Blackmer, Loren.....	714
Boe, O. A.....	848
Bohl, Peter P.....	593
Botolfson, Guthorm.....	783
Botolfson, O. G.....	783
Bottolfson, B. E.....	633
Bottolsen, Iber.....	615
Bowen, Jerome.....	845
Bowen, Truman J.....	845
Boyum, Andrew.....	573
Braaten, L. O.....	634
Brainerd, C. E.....	559
Bremer, A. C.....	564
Brewer, James S.....	737
Bridly, Botolf.....	849
Brooks, W. A.....	745
Brown, Eugene H.....	829
Brown, Horatio D.....	61
Brundin, Axel G.....	622
Brundin, Charles R.....	623
Brundin, John G.....	624
Buchanan, H. R.....	607
Buchanan, S. R.....	608
Buel, Warren.....	561
Bump, Alba F.....	605
Burton, Theodore J.....	741
Butts, Charles L.....	606
Carey, W. S.....	567
Carlson, Adolph.....	564
Carlson, H. C.....	564



Chaffee, Guy J.....	597
Challis, Seth Sleeper.....	838
Chamberlain, George B.....	680
Chamberlain, Mrs. Geo. B.....	681
Christenson, C. U.....	633
Christianson, James.....	604
Christopherson, Alfred.....	120
Christopherson, Hans.....	718
Chrs, Joseph, Jr.....	607
Chrs, Joseph.....	606
Church, Edwin A.....	511
Clark, Julius.....	749
Clausen, G. Alfred.....	639
Clausen, Iver.....	563
Clausen, Peter.....	639
Clayton, J. E.....	703
Clements, R. S.....	511
Clemmetson, Gunder.....	601
Colby, John.....	249
Colby, C. C.....	249
Collins, H. B.....	513
Colvin, David.....	641
Cookpeter, Barney.....	736
Coon, W. H.....	635
Cornish, P. C.....	513
Crane, W. N.....	511
Crandall, Rev. P. S.....	769
Crisman, Fred.....	636
Dahlen, Harold.....	635
Dammen, Ole J.....	740
Davidson, Sever L.....	775
Davis, Franz L.....	638
Day, Carlyle H.....	832
Day, H. Carroll.....	832
Day, Harwood G.....	831
Derby, Charles H.....	637
Dewey, R. E.....	636
Donaldson, N. M.....	504
Drommerhausen, Henry.....	712
Dudley, C. J.....	713
Dudley, J. D.....	250
Dunn, E. E.....	637
Dunn, Howard H.....	774
Davidson, David A.....	837
Eberhardt, Edward H.....	644
Eberhardt, Henry.....	643
Ebert, Henry A.....	602
Edwards, Samuel S.....	572
Egge, Andrew A.....	765
Eggleston, Eliab.....	642
Eggleston, Elmore E.....	642
Emery, Alfred.....	643
Emmons, George H.....	640

Emmons, Henry G.....	645
Emmons, Henry H.....	771
Emmons, Lewis H.....	757
Engblom, Albert.....	567
English, Thomas B.....	729
English, William.....	729
Erickson, Ellend.....	533
Erickson, Jens.....	645
Evenson, Edwin.....	620
Farr, George S.....	782
Farr, Robert P.....	782
Farmer, John Q.....	505
Farnsworth, R. S.....	511
Farnsworth, Charles H.....	821
Fellows, C. R.....	562
Finley, Alexander.....	603
Finley, James A.....	602
— Fisk, Frank H.....	663
Flindt, Claus H.....	574
Flaskerud, E. K.....	582
Fodness, Halver K.....	658
Fogel, Louis.....	722
Frandsen, Chris.....	568
Freeman, J. P. (M. D.).....	845
Freeman, Mark A.....	770
Freeman, Robert.....	647
Freeman, William.....	644
Freeman, W. G.....	590
Frost, Benjamin.....	251
Frydenlund, John.....	646
Frydenlund, A.....	646
Garlock, A. V.....	604
Galve, Thomas O.....	766
Gay, George.....	777
Gay, H. G.....	776
Gibbs, Lucius.....	779
Gibbs, John L.....	648
Gillrup, Victor.....	828
Gilmore, O. S.....	649
Gleason, J. H.....	603
Godley, John G.....	567
Goetzke, L. C.....	568
Goetzke, William.....	569
Goslee, James H.....	650
Goward, Jason L.....	781
Goward, Roscoe E.....	781
Gudvangen, Ole Anderson.....	595
Gulbrandson, Endre.....	653
Gulbrandson, Gilbert.....	810
Gulbrandson, Hans.....	654
Gulbrandson, Vegger.....	655
Gulbrandson, Mrs. Vegger.....	656
Gustaveson, Gustaf.....	743



Gustaveson, John A.....	575
Guthier, William.....	599
Grefsheim, Theodore O.....	611
Gregersen, Rev. Ole.....	439
Gruetzmacher, W. C.....	585
Haakenson, G.....	717
Hall, A. G.....	778
Hall, W. H.....	731
Hallum, Even J.....	850
Hammer, Erick.....	582
Hammer, O. A.....	581
Hanson, A. P.....	713
Hansen, Albert.....	599
Hansen, Andrew.....	615
Hansen, Anton.....	850
Hansen, C. C.....	557
Hanson, Hans C.....	557
Hansen, H. C.....	579
Hanson, H. P.....	616
Hanson, J. P.....	653
Hansen, James.....	787
Hansen, John F.....	770
Hansen, Peter.....	733
Hanson, Paul.....	613
Hanson, S. L.....	555
Haraldson, Aslack.....	850
Haraldson, Torger.....	589
Haraldson, Theodore.....	764
Harm, Henry J.....	552
Harty, Maurice J.....	618
Hass, Louis.....	786
Hauge, Gullick A.....	775
Haupt, A. J. D.....	832
Hayden, O. C.....	556
Hayes, James B.....	591
Hazleton, William.....	652
Helgeson, Charles T.....	560
(Helle) Hellick, Knutson.....	802
Hellie, J. O.....	657
Hemmingsen, Peter.....	592
Hendrickson, Carl.....	652
Henion, Alva.....	619
Henion, Charles H.....	620
Herman, Philip.....	833
Hermanson, B. J.....	656
Hermanson, M. J.....	660
Hibbs, David R. P.....	830
Hintz, August.....	784
Hintz, Godfrey.....	784
Hirsch, Abraham.....	547
Hirsch, Herman.....	546
Hjort, Thomas H.....	846
Hobart, C. M.....	757
Hoffman, George.....	784

Hoidal, J. P.....	777
Holway, Fred.....	661
Hord, Daniel.....	649
Hord, Harrison.....	650
Horning, Daniel W.....	544
Horning, M. F.....	725
Horning, W. D.....	786
Horning, William J.....	659
Hove, J. J.....	657
Hoveland, Edward K.....	595
Howe, M. J.....	651
Howser, Thomas J.....	598
Hoyne, N. H.....	586
Hunte, H. G.....	597
Hurd, George.....	786
Hurd, Daniel.....	785
Hurley, Joseph P.....	816
Huyck, Anthony.....	529
Ingbritsen, I. Luther.....	565
Ingebrigtsen, Knud.....	566
Jackman, Nathan.....	730
Jackman, Walter C.....	730
Jacobsen, Hans C.....	730
Jacobsen, Peter.....	598
Jacobson, Soren.....	666
Jensen, James.....	842
Jensen, Hans W.....	551
Jensen, Jens O.....	841
Jensen, Nels.....	552
Jensen, O. E.....	617
Jensen, Peter C.....	664
Johnson, Bernt.....	580
Johnson, Christopher.....	670
Johnson, E. C.....	708
Johnson, Henry W.....	851
Johnson, John G.....	667
Johnson, J. C.....	669
Johnson, Nels.....	824
Johnson, Ole.....	587
Johnson, Ole C.....	661
Johnson, William Wallace.....	664
Johnsrud, Gunvold.....	665
Jones, George E.....	731
Jones, James F.....	553
Jones, Josiah.....	662
Jones, J. E.....	663
Jones, Mark M.....	553
Jorgenson, Oluf.....	788
Kalstad, John J.....	588
Katzung, Valentine.....	835
Kellar, Martin V.....	751
Kellar, Curtis B.....	750



Kellar, William G.....	817
Kellar, William.....	749
Kingsley, Nathan.....	506
Klemme, J. L.....	548
Klove, D. L.....	666
Knatvold, B. H.....	549
Knatvold, T. V.....	513
Knutson (Helle) Hellick.....	802
Knutson, Knut.....	707
Knutson, Sivert P.....	707
Korstad, Andrew O.....	722
Korstad, Ole A.....	582
Kraushaar, S. H.....	789
Kroessin, Louis.....	739
Kvale, Peter.....	594
(Lah), James Sorensen.....	697
Landis, Samuel.....	732
Lane, William M.....	548
Langrud, T. K.....	716
Larson, A.....	547
Larson, Andrew.....	591
Larson, C. J.....	791
Larsen, Christ M.....	789
Larsen, Christian.....	818
Larson, Isaac.....	825
Larson, John A.....	532
Larson, J. P.....	672
Larson, James M.....	668
Larson, Lewis H.....	612
Larsen, N. P.....	585
Larson, Nels.....	672
Larson, Ole.....	671
Larsen, Peter.....	698
Latourell, H. G.....	513
Lattin, George P.....	828
Lawson, L. P.....	790
Lea, Albert Miller.....	753
Leonard, Carl.....	669
Leonard, Charles F.....	668
Lembke, C. G.....	545
Lemke, G.....	569
Lightly, J. H.....	609
Lindeman, August.....	723
Lord, Samuel.....	504
Lovestrom, Frank W.....	600
Lovely, John A.....	508
Lukes, J. R.....	605
Lune, Lars.....	790
Luther, Andrew J.....	833
Ly Brand, Jacob.....	496
Lyle, L. B (D. D.).....	308
McAdam, W. C.....	510
McCall, Frederick.....	719

McColley, E. A.....	768
McColley, George.....	769
McDonald, John W.....	738
McDonald, Patrick.....	739
McNeill, Alexander.....	817
McReynolds, Franklin M.....	689
McReynolds, Isaac W.....	688
Madson, Henry.....	611
Mallory, Fred H.....	827
Masse, A. W.....	792
May, Burt.....	815
Mayland, A. U.....	576
Meadowcroft, George P.....	604
Meighen, John F. D.....	843
Melander, John L.....	674
Merry, Lorenzo.....	247
Midthun, Ole O.....	675
Mikkelsen, Martin.....	673
Miller, George M.....	737
Miller, John.....	795
Miller, John C.....	737
Miller, J. L.....	673
Miller, W. H.....	794
Mills, Richard E.....	543
Mitchell, W. C.....	795
Monsen, John.....	856
Morgan, Arch Gifford.....	844
Morgan, D. F.....	509
Morgan, Henry A.....	514
Morgan, Thomas R.....	675
Morin, William.....	754
Morin, William A.....	756
Morin, Margaret Elizabeth.....	755
Mortenson, F. P.....	541
Morrison, Donald (D. D.).....	450
Mueller, Rev. Geo. H.....	311
Munson, John L.....	727
Murtaugh, J. E.....	563
Murtaugh, J. W.....	793
Murtaugh, John.....	792
Naeve, Theodore.....	820
Naeve, Mrs. Dorathea.....	821
Nelson, C. M.....	678
Nelson, C. T.....	678
Nelson, Emil.....	819
Nelson, Emil.....	679
Nelson, Even.....	683
Nelson, H. C.....	676
Nelson, H. E.....	536
Nelson, J. P.....	837
Nelson, J. M.....	536
Nelson, Lars.....	820
Nelson, Mathias.....	677
Nelson, N. C.....	726



Nelson, N. O.....	581
Nelson, N. S.....	537
Nelson, Peter.....	852
Nelson, S. J.....	593
Nelson, Severt P.....	851
Nelson, T. C.....	592
Nelson, William N.....	682
Nielsen, C.....	676
Nielsen, Frances E.....	690
Noble, John H.....	680
Nobel, P. W.....	580
Noble, T. Elwood.....	679
Olson, Edward .....	535
Olson, G. A.....	537
Olson, George .....	837
Olson, James.....	740
Olson, Knudt.....	535
Olson, M. L.....	726
Olson, Mads.....	787
Olsen, Rev. Olaf Rye.....	318
Olson, Ole M.....	787
Olson, O. N.....	600
Olson, Ralph O.....	734
Opdahl, Louis O.....	801
Opdahl, Ole I.....	800
Open, Ed.....	684
Ostby, Rev. Paul G.....	799
Ostrander, C. N.....	834
Ostrander, Henry N.....	833
Ott, Nicholas.....	684
Ott, Nicholas, Sr.....	685
Overgaard, Peter.....	834
Overland, Knudt A.....	612
Page, Sherman.....	504
Palmer, Rev. D. H.....	495
Palmer, R. M.....	510
Palmer, W. L. (M. D.).....	826
Parker, James H.....	508
Partridge, Harvey.....	648
Petersen, P. F.....	541
Paulson, A. C.....	687
Paulson, Charles E.....	534
Paulson, R. C.....	807
Peck, Orville F.....	771
Peck, W. C.....	687
Pedersen, Anders.....	608
Perry, J. U.....	507
Pettit, Hudson.....	600
Peterson, Alfred S.....	852
Pedersen, Anders.....	804
Peterson, C. F.....	852
Peterson, Christian.....	765
Peterson, George.....	614

Peterson, George W.....	577
Peterson, Hans.....	688
Peterson, J. O.....	513
Peterson, Lauritz.....	765
Peterson, Lenny.....	725
Petersen, Levi H.....	613
Petersen, Masse.....	599
Peterson, N. E.....	513
Peterson, Ole.....	685
Petersen, O. R.....	805
Peterson (Slette), Ole.....	720
Peterson, P. F.....	541
Peterson, Peter.....	611
Peterson, Peter.....	614
Peterson, Peter.....	809
Peterson, Swan.....	856
Pickle, Ralph H.....	686
Pickle, William P.....	685
Pierce, F. H.....	721
Pilgrim, William.....	805
Purdie, Thomas W.....	769
Rafoth, F. W.....	734
Rambush, W. T.....	508
Ransom, John E.....	807
Ransom, C. W.....	808
Rasmusson, James.....	594
Rasmussen, John.....	855
Rasmussen, L. H.....	802
Rasmusson, N. H.....	694
Reynolds, F. L.....	724
Rice, William.....	494
Robson, James A.....	647
Rodsater, Iver A.....	857
Rodsater, Alexander J.....	858
Rodsater, Arthur E.....	716
Rofshus, Iver H.....	693
Rosenberg, P. O.....	693
Rood, Oscar.....	586
Ruble, Charles H.....	692
Ruble, Fred S.....	690
Ruble, George S.....	691
Ruble, Henry.....	691
Ruble, John.....	691
Russ, M. T.....	735
Sandburg, Nicholas T.....	743
Schmidt, George C.....	808
Schmidt, H. L.....	772
Schoen, A. T.....	804
Schoen, John A.....	699
Scott, G. R.....	540
Scott, L. T.....	695
Scoville, Charles.....	695
Seath, George.....	798



Seath, George A.....	799
Seath, Ira Herbert.....	798
Selstad, T. O.....	699
Severson, Andrew.....	797
Severson, John A.....	796
Severson, Thomas.....	735
Sheehan, Timothy J.....	251
Siebel, William.....	644
Simms, J. E.....	701
Simonson, Dr. C. M.....	785
Simonson, Mrs. Susan A.....	814
Simonson, S. Otis.....	812
Severling, N. C.....	735
Skinner, Herbert E.....	549
Skinner, John E.....	571
Skinner, John G.....	512
Skinner, Robert B.....	550
Skinner, Mrs. Robert B.....	551
Skophammer, M. H.....	853
Skov, J. P.....	803
Slette, K. H.....	719
(Slette), Ole Peterson.....	720
Slette, P. O.....	721
Smeby, Rev. Oluf H.....	842
Smith, William D.....	650
Snyder, J. E.....	728
Solland, Knute J.....	611
Sorenson, A. C.....	539
Sorenson, Charles.....	541
Sorenson, James (Lah).....	697
Sorenson, J. L.....	596
Sorenson, N. C.....	797
Sorenson, N. P.....	854
Sorenson, Soren.....	542
Sorlie, Iver.....	801
Soth, Charles.....	531
Soth, Henry.....	531
Southwick, C. E.....	512
Spencer, H. A.....	538
Spicer, Lester V.....	696
Spicer, Lester W.....	697
Sprenger, Martin.....	809
Stacy, D. K.....	829
Stacy, Edwin Clark.....	752
Stadheim, O. E.....	616
Stanton, Elias.....	495
Stensrud, Hans.....	846
Stevenson, Robert G.....	539
Stiehl, Christ.....	706
Stiehl, Frederick C.....	847
Stiehl, Henry.....	806
Stieler, O. F.....	575
Stilson, David.....	250
Stoddart, Andrew.....	797
Storvik, A. O.....	587

Stott, Rev. Walter.....	496
Strauss, Simon.....	834
Street, Avalin H.....	698
Styve, Ole O.....	578
Styve, O. C.....	578
Subby, Oscar.....	827
Svendson, S.....	853
Sweet, Levi Chandler.....	810
Swenson, C. L.....	542
Swenson, Soren K.....	579
Swinford, A. P.....	507
Teslow, Andrew.....	745
Teslow, M. A.....	745
Tennis, Peter J.....	700
Thompson, Mrs. Ellen.....	834
Thompson, Gilbert.....	727
Thompson, Henry O.....	746
Thompson, Samuel M.....	495
Thompson, Thomas.....	703
Thorne, Thomas.....	252
Thykeson, Rollof.....	716
Thiede, Rev. F.....	442
Tistel, Botlof G.....	783
Todd, James D.....	811
Todd, W. E (M. D.).....	761
Todd, William Elmir.....	758
Torgenson, T. L.....	555
Town, Ira A.....	509
Tracy, A. L.....	596
Trask, Walter J.....	511
Trogstad, C. H.....	763
Tyrer, A. M.....	508
Trytten, Guttron O.....	825
Vandegrift, Thomas A.....	710
Vold, John J.....	854
Vollum, Nels.....	739
Wadsworth, G. W.....	583
Wadsworth, J. L.....	584
Wadsworth, W.....	583
Walker, Asa.....	792
Walker, L. T.....	761
Walker, W. H.....	704
Warwick, W. J.....	702
Wasmoen, Gunlek O.....	762
Wasmoen, Ole G.....	762
Wasrud, G. T.....	543
Webber, A. B.....	507
Wedge, Albert Clark.....	525
Wedge, A. G.....	508
Wedge, Clarence.....	243
Wedge, Lucius P.....	525
Whelen, Daniel.....	618



Whitcomb, Lesley Sherman.....	815
White, Asa W.....	530
White, Richard A.....	705
White, William.....	704
Whittemore, Benjamin.....	838
Whittemore, Mrs. Benjamin.....	839
Whytock, John.....	505
Winjum, Guttrom, K.....	708
Wilkinson, C. M.....	707
Wilson, Thomas W.....	529
Wood, Rev. Irwin B.....	309
Wohlhuter, William.....	545
Wulff, H. M.....	608
Yost, Christ.....	835
Young, C. T.....	713
Young, D. R.....	712

## PORTRAIT INDEX

Abbott, D. D, Russell B.....	304
Albert Lea College.....	153
Albert Lea Hide & Fur Co.....	293
American Gas Machine Co.—Plant and Officers.....	289
Ancient Landmark.....	10
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ellef.....	621
Anderson, Robert.....	554
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Thor.....	622
Annis, J. Q.....	268
Armstrong, Augustus.....	521
Armstrong, Mrs. Mary F.....	521
Asleson, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett.....	625
Augur, Charles Baker.....	151
Ayars, Charles C. and Family.....	767
Babbitt, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton.....	742
Bailey, Fred and Family.....	763
Barden, Mrs. Harriett S.....	349
Baker, William H.....	671
Beach, S. A.....	629
Beedle, W. L.....	558
Berglund, Mr. and Mrs. Johan.....	626
Bessesen, W. A. (M. D.).....	203
Blackmer, Mrs. Franc E.....	346
Botolfson, Mr. and Mrs. Guthorm.....	783
Braaten, L. O.....	634
Bremer, August and Family.....	564
Brown, H. D.....	125
Cargill Science Hall.....	153
Chamberlain, Mrs. George.....	349
Christopherson, Hans.....	718
Chrs, Joseph and Family.....	606
Clausen, G. A.....	296
Clausen, Peter.....	296
Colvin, Mr. and Mrs. David.....	641
Court House and Jail.....	76
Dunn, Howard H.....	512
Dahlen, Harold.....	127
Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. S. L.....	775
Day, H. G.....	480
Derby, C. H.....	637
Emery, Alfred.....	643
Erickson, Ellend.....	533
Erickson, Jens.....	645



First House in Freeborn County.....	49
Fisk, Frank H.....	108
Flindt, Mr. and Mrs. Claus.....	574
Fodness, Mr. and Mrs. H. K.....	658
Freeman, Mark A.....	770
Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert.....	647
Freeman, William.....	644
Freydenlund, A.....	646
Gibbs, J. L.....	648
Gibbs, Mrs. J. L.....	648
Godley, John G.....	576
Godley, Mrs. John G.....	346
Goslee, James H.....	650
Gulbrandson, Mr. and Mrs. Endre.....	653
Gulbrandson, Gilbert.....	121
Gulbrandson, Hans.....	654
Gulbrandson, V.....	112
Gulbrandson, Mrs. V.....	112
Hammer, Ole A.....	100
Hanson, H. C.....	289
Harm, Henry J.....	266
Hauge, Mr. and Mrs. G. A.....	775
Helgeson, C. T.....	104
Hendrickson, Carl.....	652
Hibbs, David R. P.....	209
Hibbs, Mrs. D. R. P.....	349
Hirsch, Abraham.....	293
Hirsch, Herman.....	293
Hjort, Thomas H.....	289
Hobart, C. M.....	490
Hoffman, George.....	784
Horning, Mr. and Mrs. D. W.....	786
Horning, William J.....	659
Hove, J. J.....	657
Howe, Mr. and Mrs. M. J.....	651
Hoyne, N. H.....	586
Hurley, Joseph P.....	274
Huyck, Anthony.....	529
Huyck, Mrs. Emily A.....	349
Jenson, H. W.....	289
Jensen, James and Family.....	842
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. E. C.....	708
Johnson, J. C.....	669
Johnson, J. G.....	667
Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole.....	587
Johnson, William W.....	664
Johnsrud, Gunvold.....	227
Jones, Josiah and Family.....	662
Kalstad, John J. and Family.....	588
Katzung, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine.....	535
Kellar, C. B.....	118

Kellar, Martin V.....	58
Kellar, William.....	66
Korstad, Mr. and Mrs. A. O.....	722
Kraushaar, Mr. and Mrs. S. H.....	789
(Lah) James Sorenson.....	697
Lake Shore Greenhouses.....	296
Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew.....	591
Larsen, Mr. and Mrs. Christian.....	808
Larson, J. M.....	668
Larson, J. P.....	672
Log Cabin .....	20
McReynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac.....	432
Miller, J. L.....	673
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. W. H.....	794
Morgan, Henry A.....	504
Morin, William.....	246
Morin, William A.....	246
Morin, William T.....	246
Morin, Mrs. Margaret E.....	346
Murtaugh, John W. and Family.....	793
Naeve Hospital.....	285
Naeve, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore.....	285
Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. C. M.....	678
Nelson, H. C.....	676
Nelson, J. M. and Family.....	536
Nelson, William N.....	682
Nelson, Mrs. William N.....	682
Noble, T. E.....	454
Olson, G. A.....	298
Opdahl, Mr. and Mrs. Ole I.....	800
Ostby, Rev. P. G.....	437
Pedersen, Anders.....	608
Peterson (Slette) Ole.....	720
Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter.....	809
Petersen, P. F.....	541
Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. John.....	855
Rasmusson, N. H.....	694
Ruble, Mr. and Mrs. John.....	171
Sandburg, Mr. and Mrs. N. T.....	743
Schoen, Mr. and Mrs. John A.....	699
Scoville, Charles.....	695
Severson, John A. and Family.....	796
Simms, J. E.....	701
Simonson, S. Otis.....	484
Skinner, John E.....	571
Skinner, R. B.....	550
Skinner, Mrs. R. B.....	346
Skov, Jorgen P. and Family.....	803



(Slette) Ole Peterson.....	720
Smeby, Rev. O. H.....	314
Sorenson (Lah), Mr. and Mrs. James.....	697
Sorlie, Iver and Family.....	801
Soth, Charles.....	531
Soth, Henry.....	294
Subby, Oscar.....	96
Stiehl, Mr. and Mrs. Christ.....	706
Stiehl, Mr. and Mrs. Henry.....	806
Street, A. H.....	207
Swenson, C. L.....	263
Swenson, Soren K.....	292
Teslow, M. A. and Family.....	745
Thompson, Mrs. Ellen.....	349
Thompson, H. O., and Family.....	746
Thompson, Thomas.....	703
Thykeson, Rollof and Family.....	716
Todd, William Elmir.....	510
Vandegrift, T. A.....	192
Wadsworth, Mr. and Mrs. Wiffing.....	583
Walker, Lyman T. and Family.....	761
Wedge, M. D., Albert Clark.....	Frontispiece
Wedge, Mrs. A. C.....	346
Wedge, Clarence.....	237
Wedge, F. Curtiss.....	Frontispiece
Whitcomb, Lesley S.....	487
Winjum, Mr. and Mrs. G. K.....	708

1865











